SINKING JAPAN 4 列島消失

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SPコミックス

Japan sinks

Japan sinks 4 SINKING JAPAN

Saito
Productions

Original story by
Sakyo Komatsu

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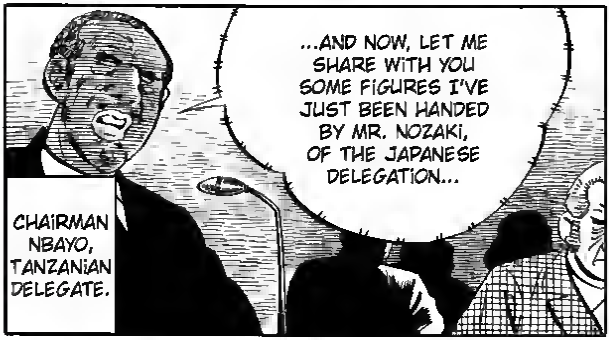
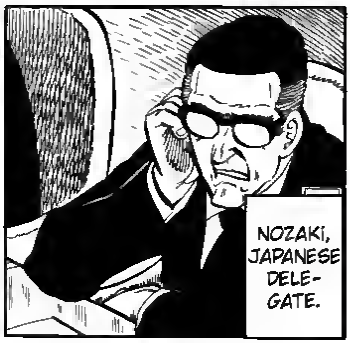
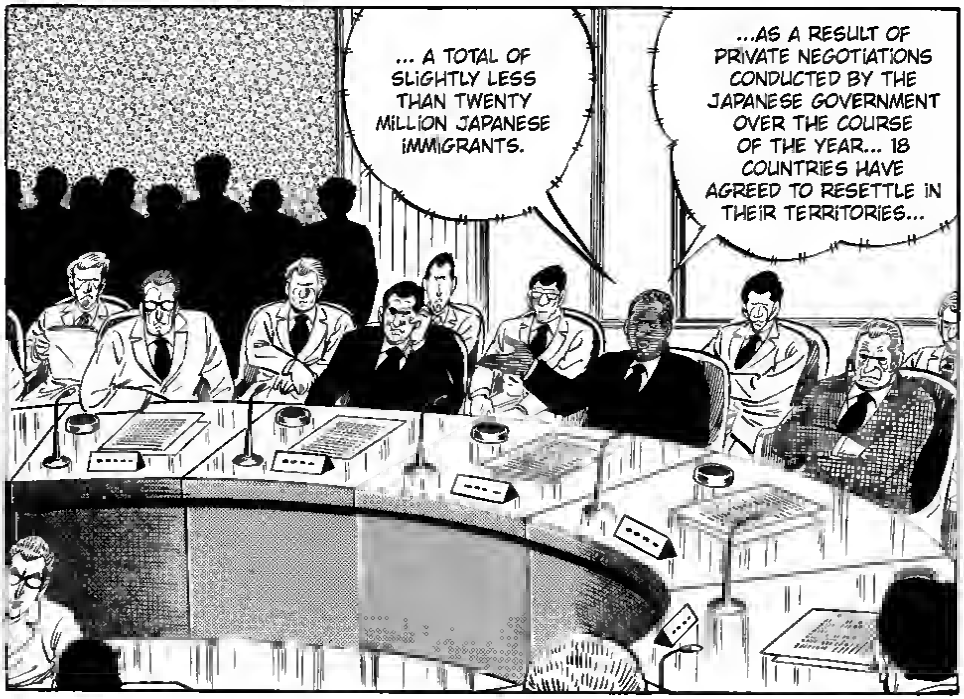
Chapter 8: Rescue


...AND NOW, LET ME SHARE WITH YOU SOME FIGURES I'VE JUST BEEN HANDED BY MR. NOZAKI, OF THE JAPANESE DELEGATION...
CHAIRMAN NBAYO, TANZANIAN DELEGATE.


NOZAKI, JAPANESE DELE-GATE.

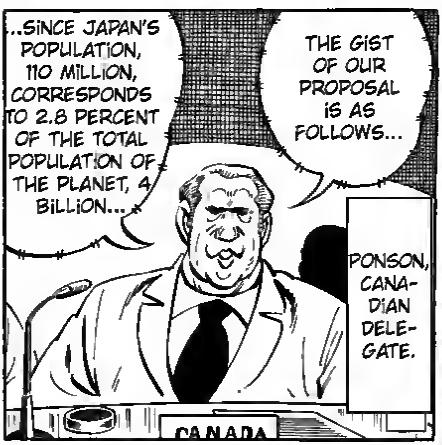

... A TOTAL OF SLIGHTLY LESS THAN TWENTY MILLION JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS.
...AS A RESULT OF PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR... 18 COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO RESETTLE IN THEIR TERRITORIES...

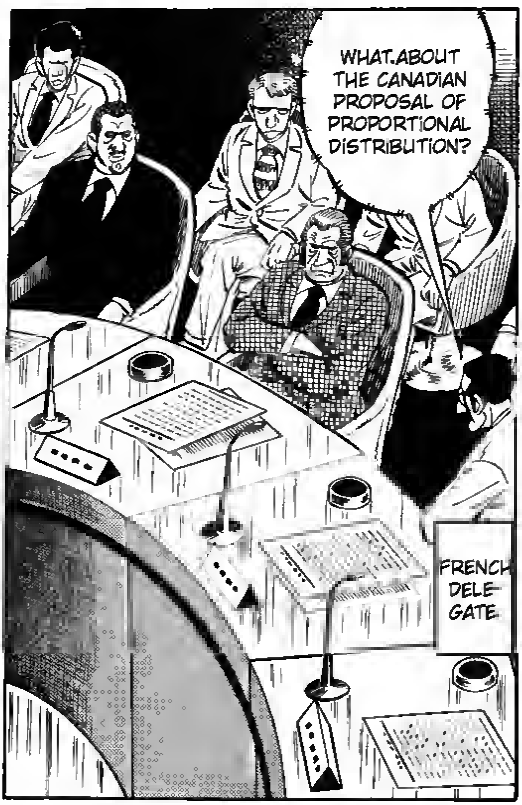
THE UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HAS ALSO AGREED TO RELOCATE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS 5 TO 6 MILLION JAPANESE IN THE ISLAND COUNTRIES OF MICRONESIA AND EASTERN IRIAN WHICH ARE PRESENTLY UNDER ITS TUTELAGE.
IN ADDITION, SEVERAL MILLION JAPANESE ARE ALREADY LIVING OR HAVE ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY RESETTLED ABROAD.
THREE FOURTHS OF THE 110 MILLION PEOPLE IN JAPAN DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO GO YET!
...THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE WHO HAVE BEEN RESETTLED DOESN'T REACH 30 MILLION.
EVEN CONSIDERING THE 1.5 MILLION IMMIGRANTS TO OVERSEAS TERRITORIES THAT JAPAN HAS LEGALLY ACQUIRED OR ARE UNDER JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION...
...BUT RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO FIND COUNTRIES TO WELCOME THEM. IT'S NOT ABOUT PERMANENT RESIDENCY OR HOUSING... WE'RE ASKING COUNTRIES TO OFFER TEMPORARY SHELTER FROM DANGER.
AFTER THEY'VE RECEIVED EMERGENCY SHELTER, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE TIME FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO SOLVE THE QUESTION OF THEIR FINAL DESTINATION...

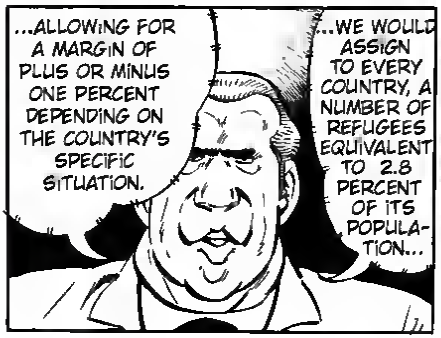
...MOST COUNTRIES HAVE NOT GIVEN AN ANSWER.
AS FOR GIVING THEM PERMANENT RESIDENCY, IN SPITE OF MY NUMEROUS INQUIRIES...
...ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.
MOST OF THE PEOPLE RELOCATED UNTIL NOW, HAVE ONLY BEEN ACCEPTED...
WHAT THIS COMMITTEE MUST NOW DO IS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS AT ONCE...
...TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY HOME TO THE REMAINING EIGHTY MILLION IN LESS THAN A YEAR....
...MORE PRECISELY, BETWEEN SIX AND TEN MONTHS FROM NOW...
AND AFTERWARD FIND A PERMANENT HOME FOR ALL ONE HUNDRED AND TEN MILLION OF THEM.
TUKAN, JORDANIAN DELEGATE.
YOU TALK ABOUT "TEMPORARY SHELTER" BUT... WHAT IF THINGS DRAGGED ON? IT COULD PUT A LOT OF STRAIN ON THE HOST COUNTRIES.

PRECISELY! BUT DON'T YOU THINK, DELEGATE TUKAN, THAT JORDAN'S TRAGIC BUT PRECIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS COULD COME IN VERY HANDY?
ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENTS, REFUGEE CAMPS TURNING INTO SLUMS, OUTBREAKS OF DISEASE...
...SOCIAL UNREST, CRIMES, CLASHES WITH THE AUTHORITIES...
... A VERY DISQUIETING SCENARIO!
THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN QUESTION IS UNPRECEDENTED. MY COUNTRY'S PAST EXPERIENCE WOULDN'T BE OF ANY HELP.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I DON'T THINK SO.
...I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM.
REMEMBER, OUR COUNTRY'S POPULATION IS TWO AND A HALF MILLIONS... THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE IS 46 TIMES THAT!
...AND EVERYONE KNOWS HOW CRITICAL THE SITUATION IS.
...AMOUNTING TO 35 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION...
... ...THERE ARE 700,000 PALESTINIAN REFUGEES...

...
THE... THE RESETTLEMENT OF SUCH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IS... AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

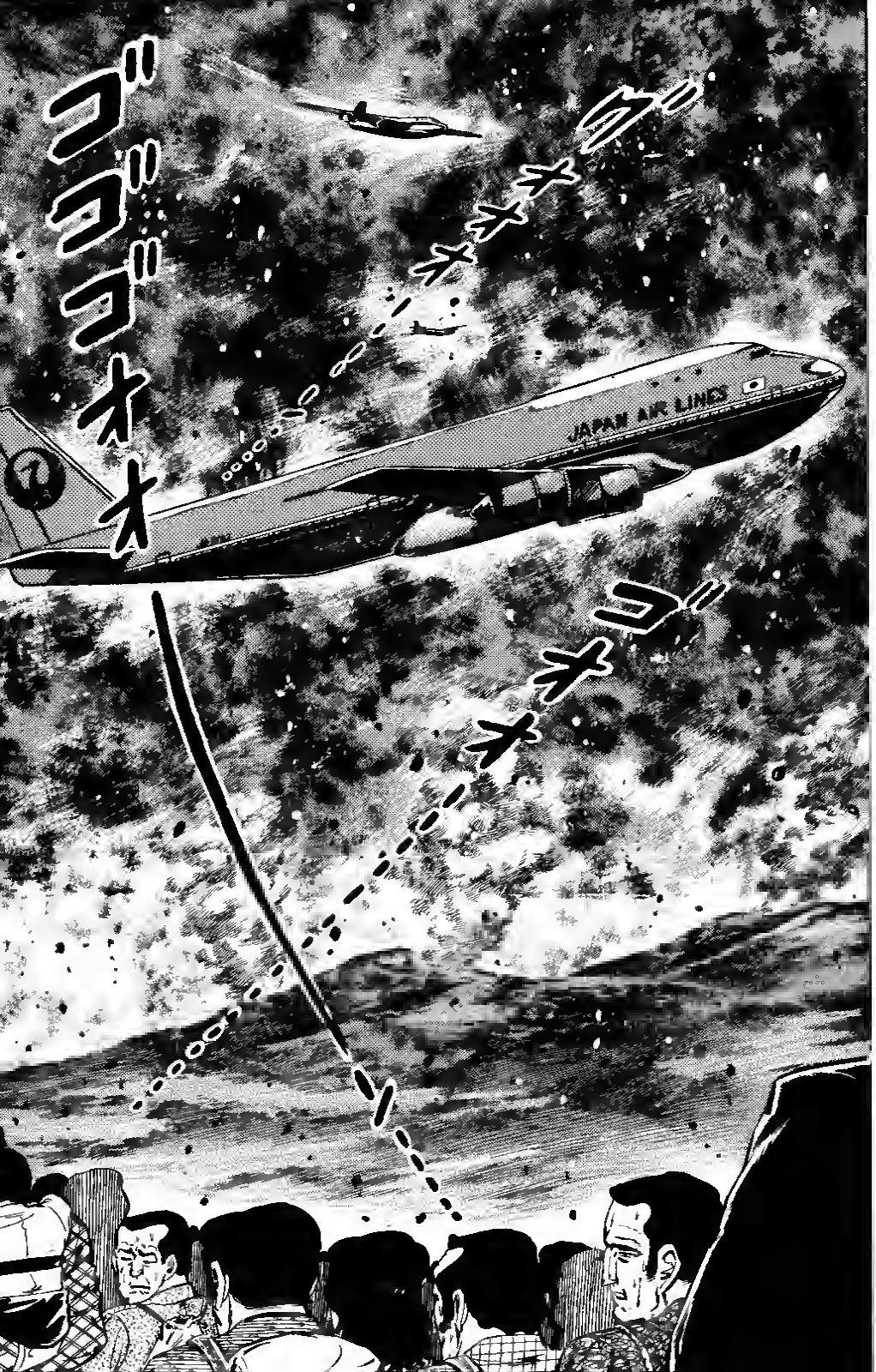

..SINCE JAPAN'S POPULATION, 110 MILLION, CORRESPONDS TO 2.8 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE PLANET, 4 BILLION...
THE GIST OF OUR PROPOSAL IS AS FOLLOWS...
PONSON, CANADIAN DELEGATE.
CANADA


WHAT ABOUT THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL OF PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION?
FRENCH DELEGATE


...ALLOWING FOR A MARGIN OF PLUS OR MINUS ONE PERCENT DEPENDING ON THE COUNTRY'S SPECIFIC SITUATION.
...WE WOULD ASSIGN TO EVERY COUNTRY, A NUMBER OF REFUGEES EQUIVALENT TO 2.8 PERCENT OF ITS POPULATION...

ACCORDING TO YOUR PROPOSAL IT SHOULD RECEIVE 700,000 PEOPLE BUT THAT'S CLEARLY NOT ENOUGH CONSIDERING ITS SIZE.
CANADA, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ONE OF THE LARGEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD BUT ITS POPULATION IS ONLY 25 MILLION...
YOU SEEM TO FORGET THAT SOME COUNTRIES ARE MUCH LESS DENSELY POPULATED THAN OTHERS.
I STRONGLY OBJECT TO USING SUCH A MECHANICAL METHOD!
BESIDES, WE'VE ALREADY ACCEPTED JAPAN'S REQUEST OF 1 MILLION PEOPLE AND ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO TAKE IN TEMPORARILY ANOTHER 500,000 REFUGEES
TRUE, OUR COUNTRY HAS A TERRITORY OF ABOUT 10 MILLION KM² BUT NEARLY TWO THIRDS OF IT LIE IN POLAR REGIONS... WE'RE DEFINITELY NOT AN UNDER-POPULATED COUNTRY.
...DISTRI-BUTION BASED ON POPULATION ALONE IS TOO SIMPLISTIC
NO ONE QUESTIONS CANADA'S GENEROSITY BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT...
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN IN THREE TIMES MORE PEOPLE THAN WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO US ACCORDING TO OUR PROPOSED METHOD.
...THEY HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS FEEDING THEIR OWN PEOPLE!
THE WORLD'S DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE STRUGGLING ECONOM-ICALLY...
...FACTORS LIKE INCOME, STANDARD OF LIVING AND SO ON IS UTTERLY MEANINGLESS!
ASSIGNING PEOPLE TO COUNTRIES WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT...

... CLIMATE, ECONOMY, POLITICAL SITUATIONS, LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK ETC.
WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE SPECIFIC SITUATION OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES...
...IN THE LAST YEAR ALONE, SIX OF THEM HAVE SUFFERED REVOLUTIONS OR COUPS.
MANY EMERGING COUNTRIES ARE ON THE BRINK OF FINANCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CRISIS...
...THE OBVIOUS TRUTH IS THAT WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THAT.
IDEALLY THE UN WOULD ENGAGE IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF A HOST OF DIFFERENT FACTORS, HOWEVER...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
...
...
WE'LL RECONVENE AT THREE O' CLOCK
LET'S HAVE A SHORT BREAK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JAPAN AIR LINES
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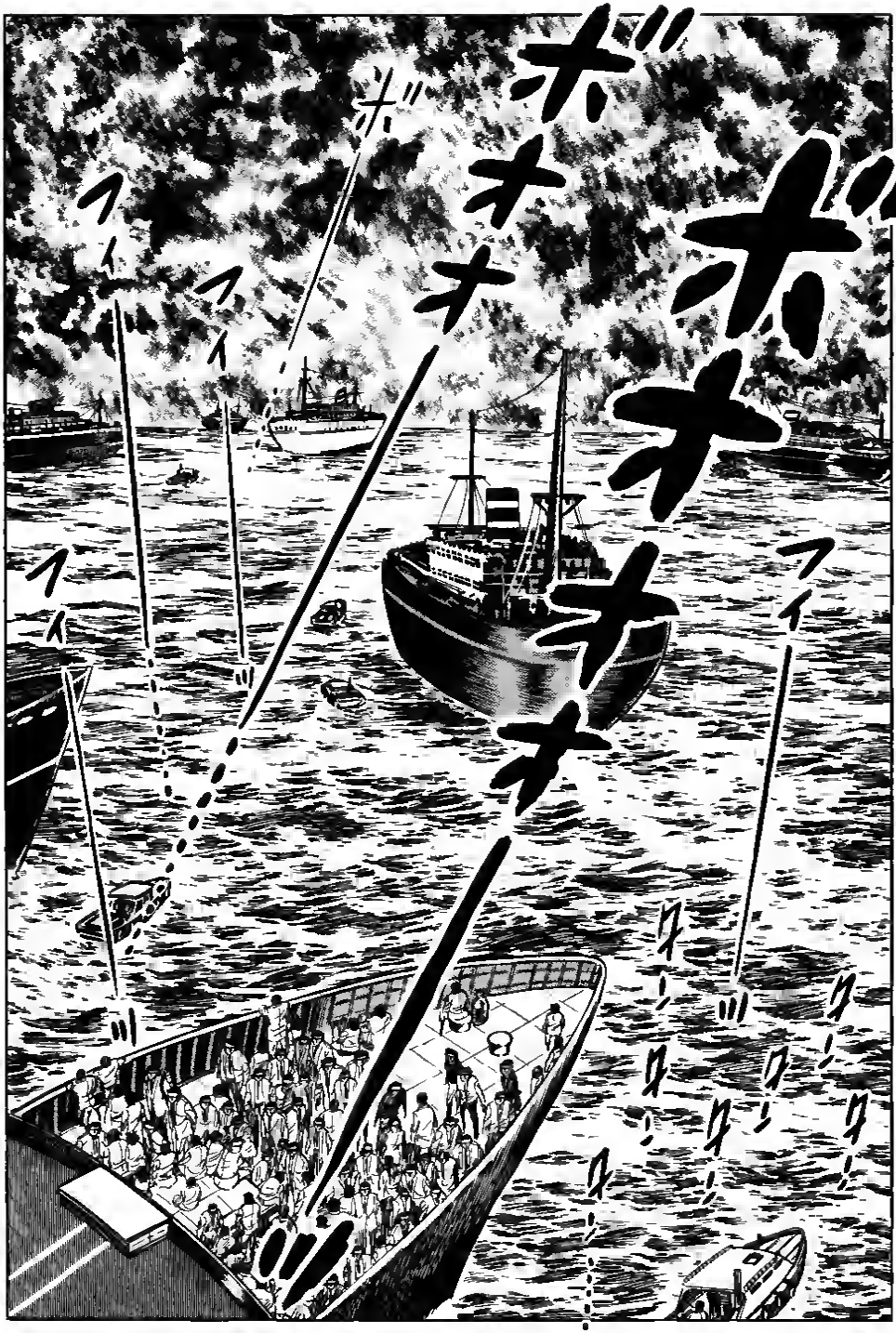
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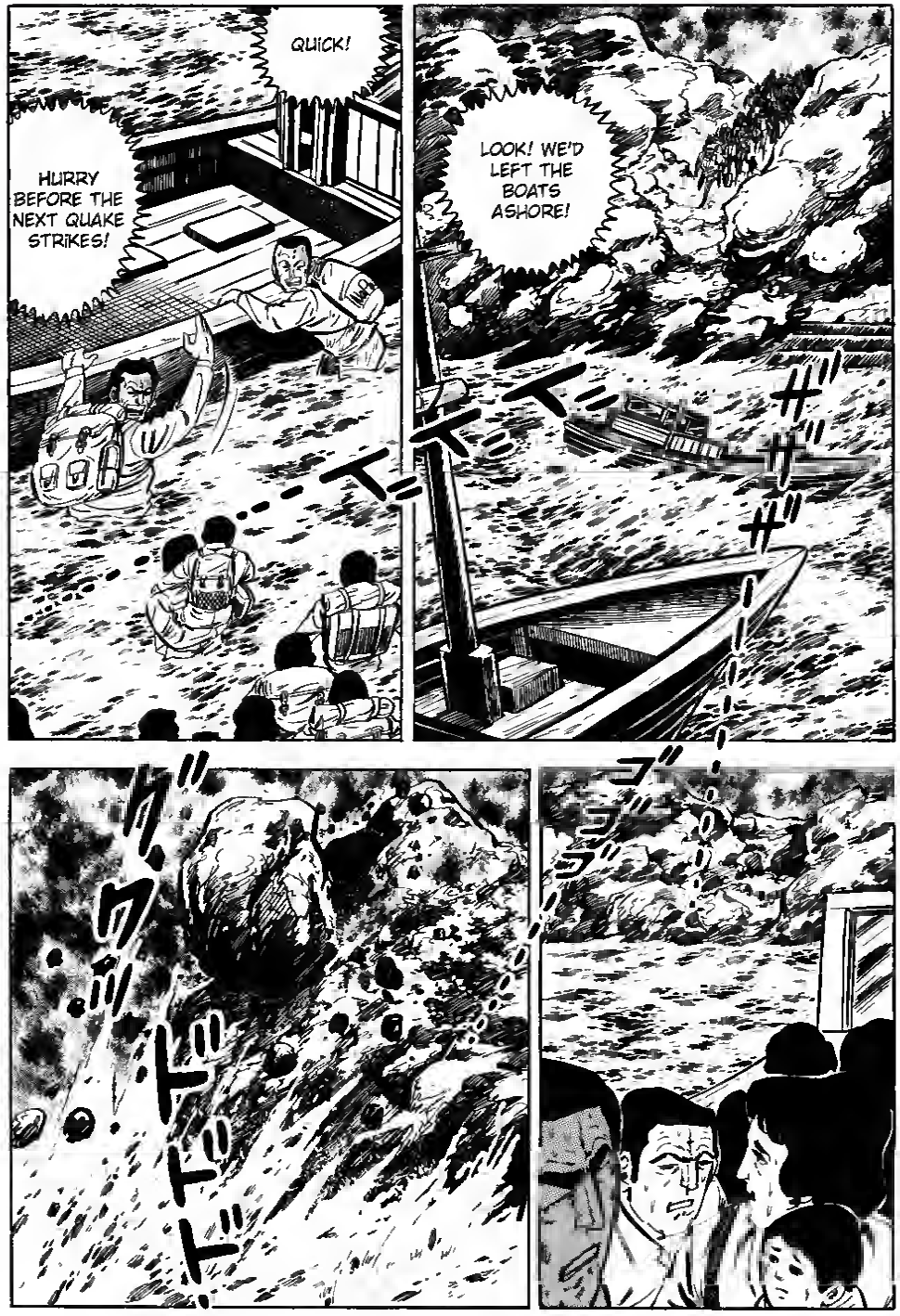
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, WE'RE DONE FOR... JUST LIKE JAPAN!
THEY WOULD JUST MAKE US WAIT FOREVER!
WE CAN'T WAIT FOR OUR TURN... LIKE THE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE SAID!
REACHING KOREA SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM... EVEN ON OUR BOATS!
HURRY!


QUICK!
HURRY BEFORE THE NEXT QUAKE STRIKES!
LOOK! WE'D LEFT THE BOATS ASHORE!
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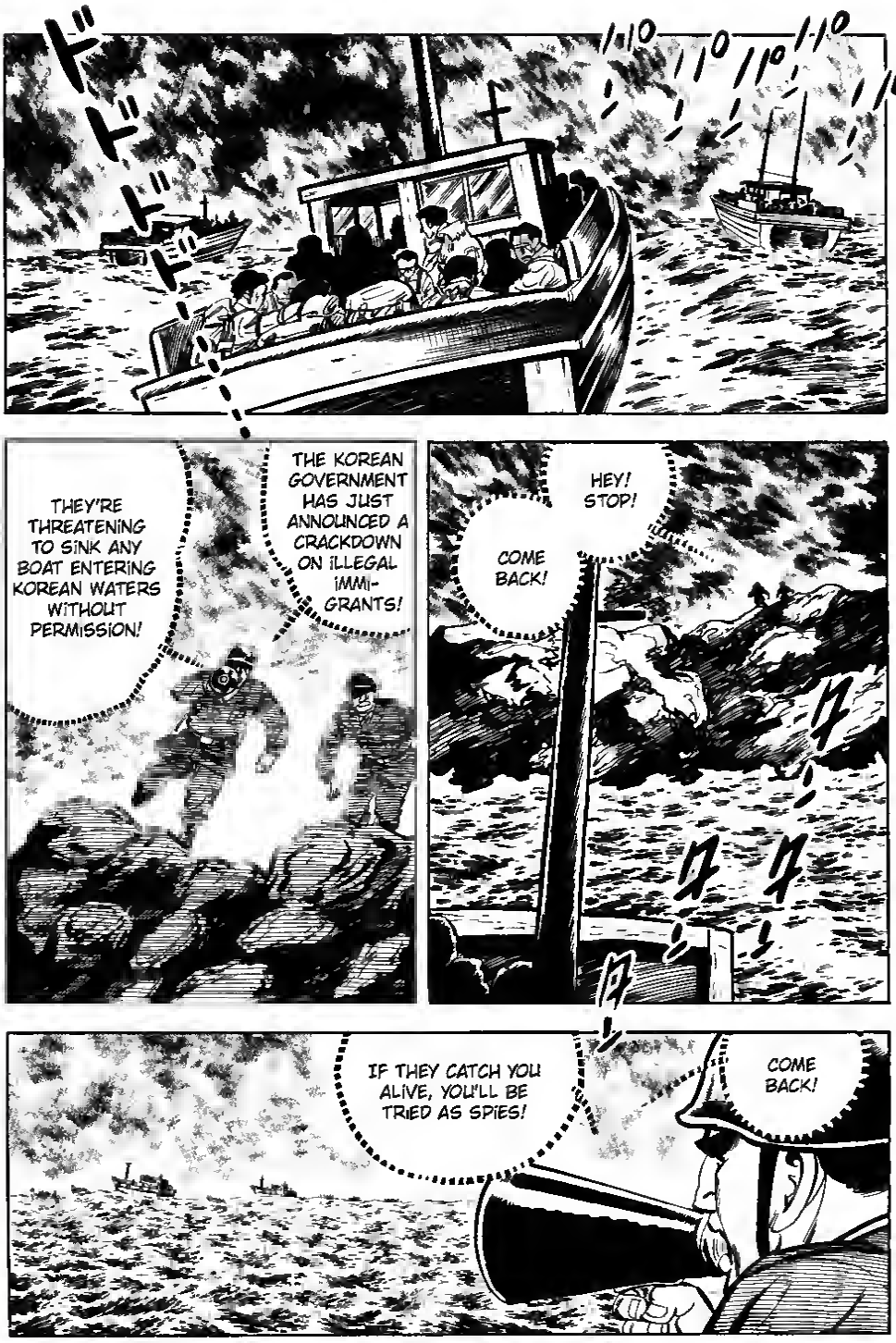
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THEY'RE THREATENING TO SINK ANY BOAT ENTERING KOREAN WATERS WITHOUT PERMISSION!
THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS JUST ANNOUNCED A CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMI-GRANTS!
HEY! STOP!
COME BACK!
IF THEY CATCH YOU ALIVE, YOU'LL BE TRIED AS SPIES!
COME BACK!

EVEN IF WE WENT BACK... THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE'LL SURVIVE!
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.
WHAT NOW...? SHALL WE GO BACK?
ズザザザザ
AN UNDERSEA EARTHQUAKE WAS JUST REPORTED! THERE'S A TSUNAMI WARNING IN EFFECT!
GO BACK IMMEDIATELY!
A WARNING TO ALL FISHING BOATS!

TURN BACK! ...EVEN IF YOU MADE IT TO KOREA, YOU'D BE IMMEDIATELY JAILED!
...I REPEAT... THERE'S A... TSUNAMI WARNING!
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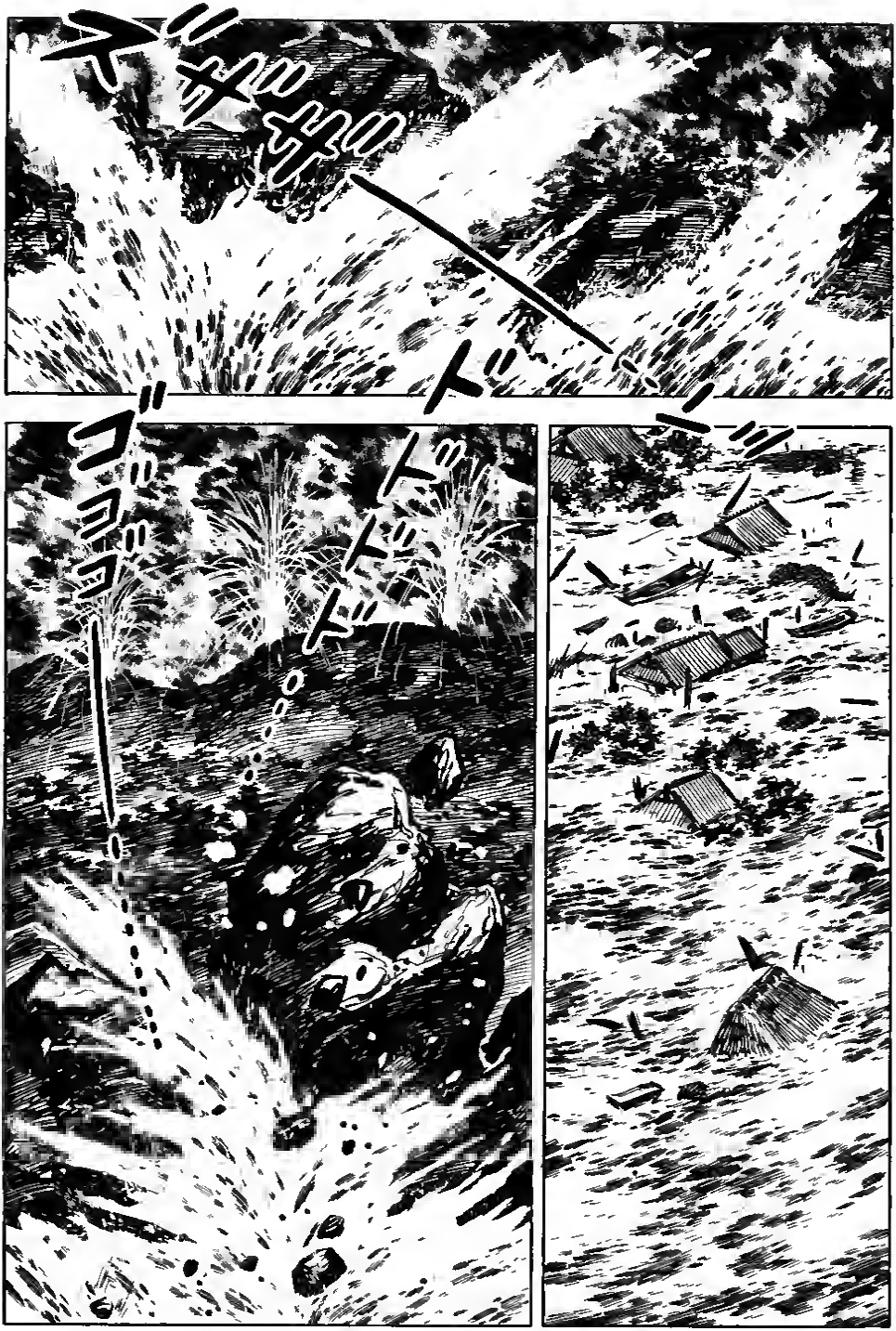
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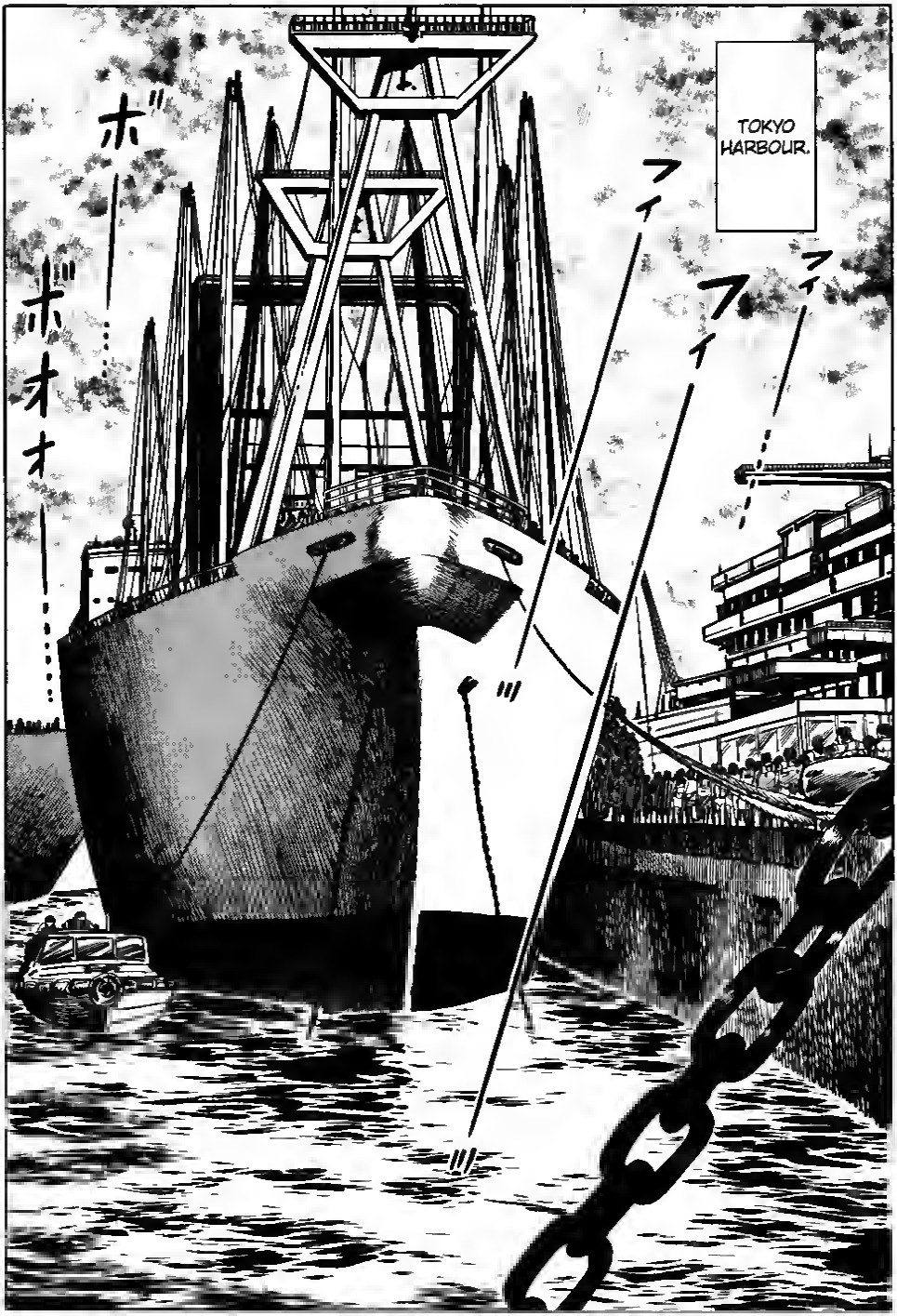
TOKYO HARBOUR.
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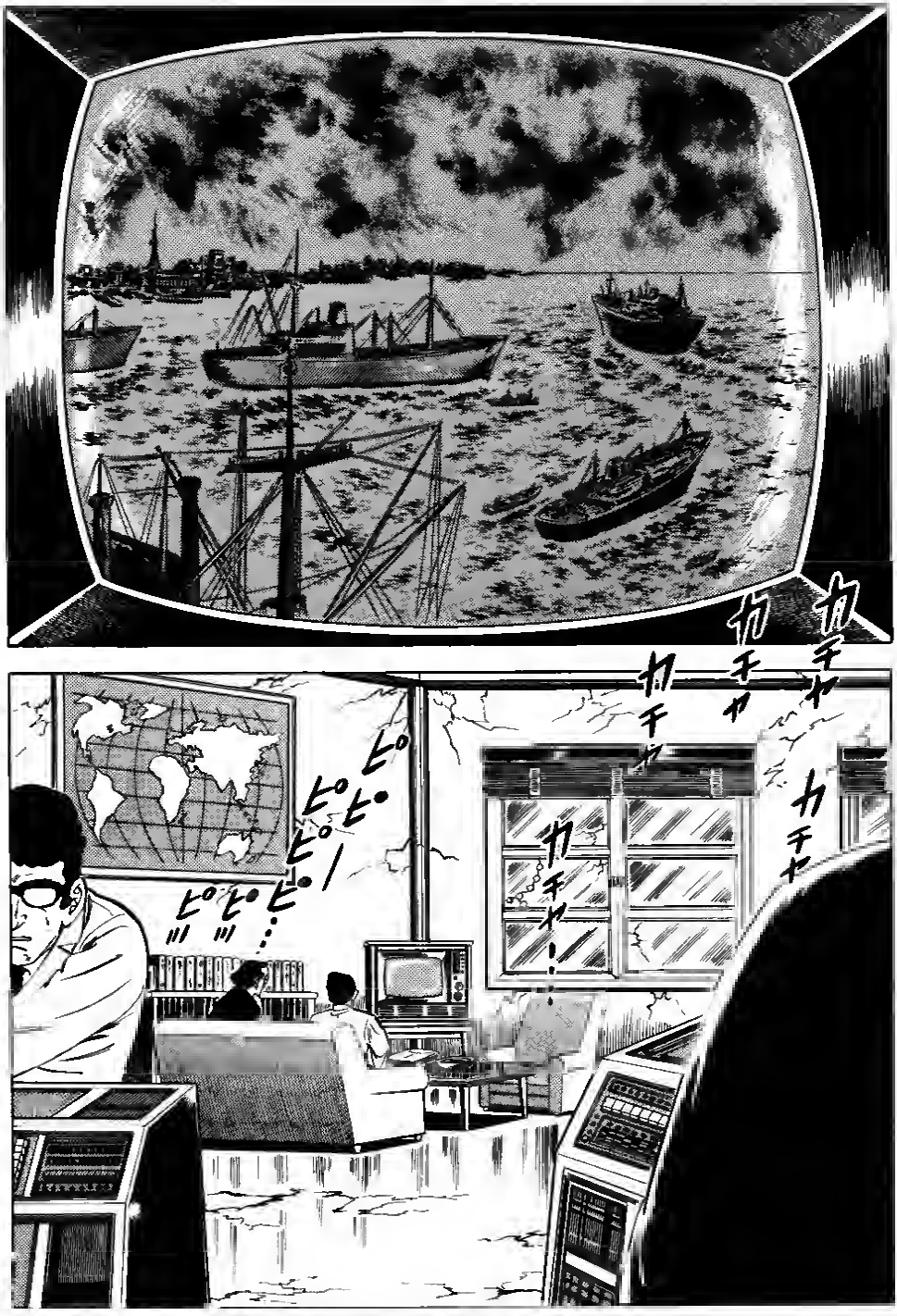
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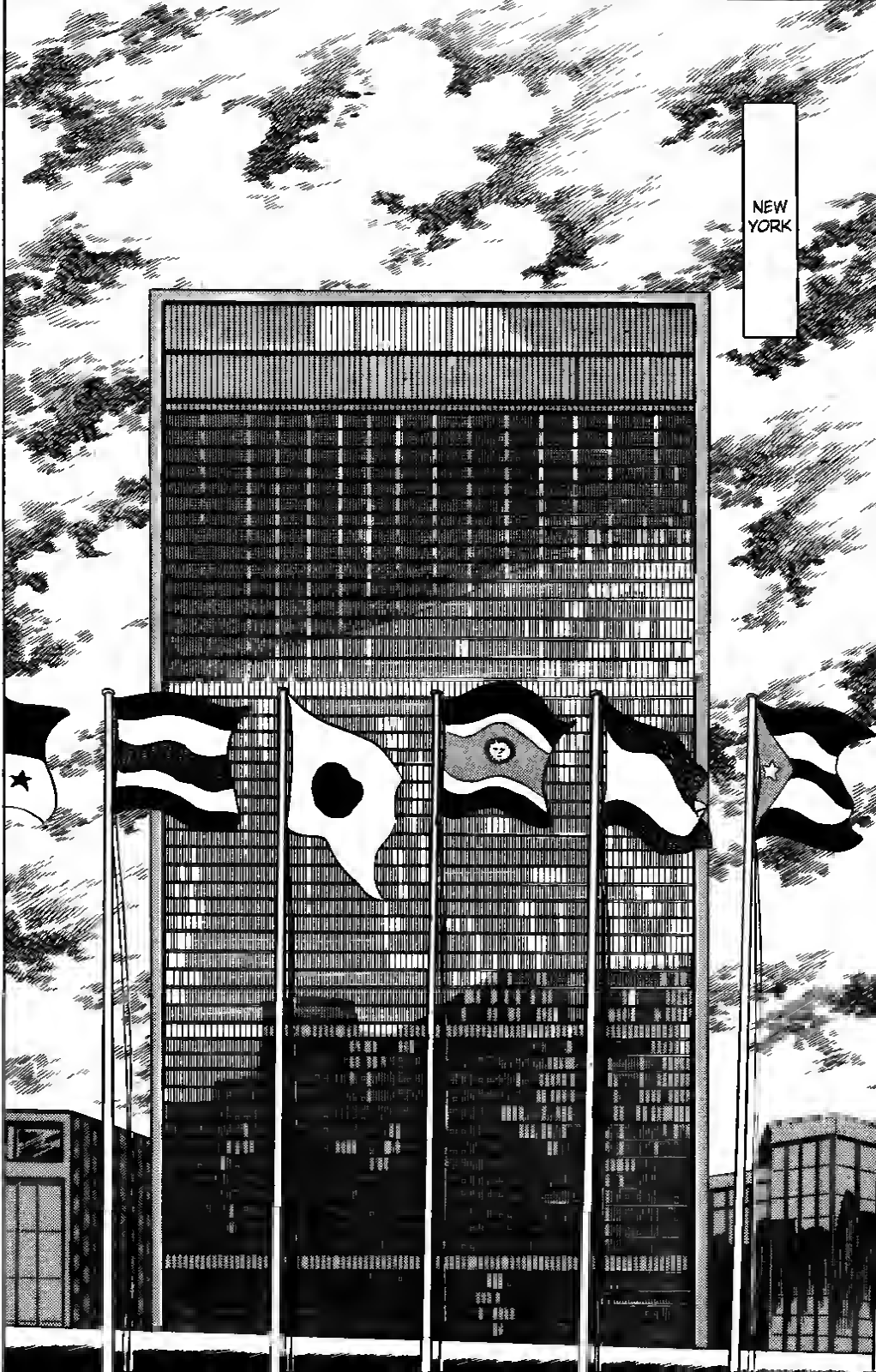
...AND ARE PREPARED TO TAKE SEVEN MILLION IN TOTAL. WE'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM TO TAKE MORE...
...THEY WILL TAKE IN TWO MILLION BY AUGUST...
...WE HAVE AN ANSWER FROM CHINA!
PLAN D'S KUNIEDA.
ガチャ
NAKATA
YUKINAGA
THEY'LL NEVER ACCEPT.
THEY WANT FARMERS, YOU SEE... AND SKILLED WORKERS...
...JUST THINK ABOUT FOOD SUPPLIES!
AS BIG AS CHINA IS, THEIR PER-CAPITA INCOME IS STILL TOO LOW...
ISN'T THAT IN FRONT OF SUZHOU?
CHONMING ...?
THEY TOLD US HOUSING UNITS ARE ALREADY BEING BUILT FOR THEM IN CHONMING ISLAND AT THE MOUTH OF THE YANGTZE RIVER
NO, FOR THE MOMENT IT'S JIANGSU PROVINCE.
...CANTON PROVINCE?
WHERE EXACTLY?

...SAKHALIN, AT LEAST THE SOUTHERN TIP, AND THEN THE CHISHIMA ISLANDS... THEY'RE ALREADY PULLING OUT OF THERE.
...IT'S BECOME APPARENT THAT THEIR MARITIME PROVINCE WILL BE AFFECTED TOO...
NO... NOTHING. WHAT ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION?
THAT'S RIGHT. ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT...?
...THEY'VE BEEN AT WORK FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS BY NOW...
WHAT ABOUT THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON JAPAN'S RELIEF OPERATIONS?
I GUESS... THEY WON'T BE LENDING US MILITARY VESSELS ANYMORE, THEN.
AS FOR THEIR PRIMARY TASK, CONVINCING THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO ACCEPT JAPANESE EVACUEES, THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE MAKING MUCH PROGRESS...
THEY'VE PUT THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES IN CHARGE OF ALLOTTING SHIPS AND DISTRIBUTING RELIEF SUPPLIES.

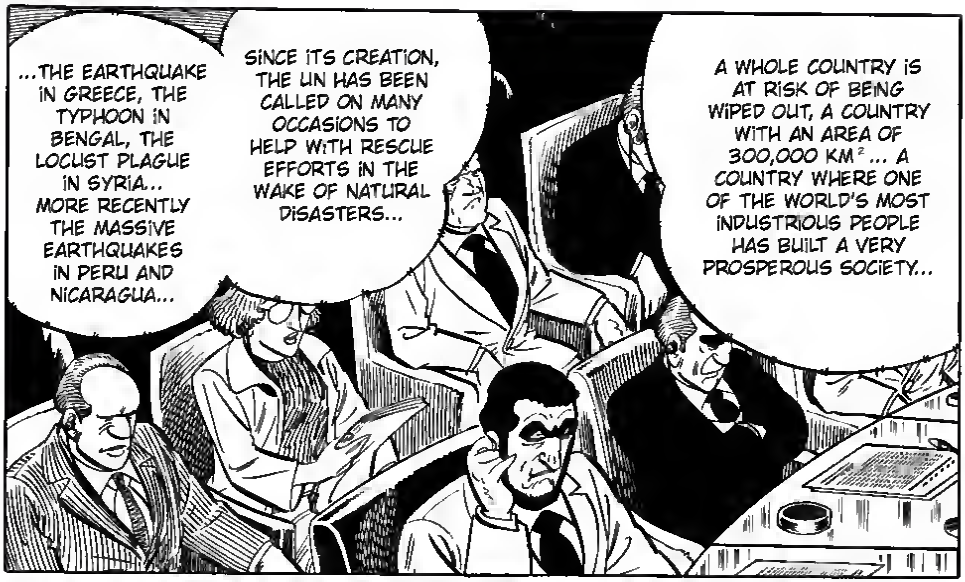

NEW YORK

UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON JAPAN'S RELIEF OPERATIONS.
SO, VICE-ADMIRAL BRAUNBERGER...
JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE...
... ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD...?
... WE'LL COME BACK LATER TO THE SPECIFICS OF THE EVACUATION PLAN

...AND I WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT JAPANESE PEOPLE, IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, ARE WELL-BEHAVED AND NOT PRONE TO RAISE TROUBLE...
...AT THE END OF WW2, I TOOK PART IN THE REPATRIATION OF JAPANESE CITIZENS FROM THE CHINESE MAINLAND...
...AND, WHEN PROBLEMS DID ARISE IN OTHER AREAS, I HEARD THEY WERE MOSTLY TO BE BLAMED ON OUR SIDE.
...ANY CONFLICT WITHIN THE GROUP WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE GROUP ITSELF.
TRUE, WHEN UNARMED, GROUPS OF JAPANESE TEND TO BE EXTREMELY EASY TO CONTROL...
DEKISON, RUSSIAN DELEGATE
BUT WE ALL KNOW FROM WORLD WAR TWO THAT THE JAPANESE... ARE NOT ALWAYS PEACEFUL...
INDONESIAN DELEGATE.
ALL IN ALL, THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN BY THE ALLIED FORCES WAS A VERY SMOOTH AND PEACEFUL PROCESS...

THEY HAVE A VERY STRONG SENSE OF COMRADESHIP... THEY ARE A VERY TOUGH PEOPLE...
...WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES AFTER THE EVACUATION?
WILL THEY DISARM? THEY WON'T BE PUT IN CHARGE OF THE EVACUATION CAMPS, I HOPE.
AT PRESENT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS PUT THEM IN CHARGE OF KEEPING ORDER BUT...
...THERE'S A PROPOSAL TO ABSORB COMMANDING OFFICERS INTO THE UN FORCE.
FROM A CERTAIN STAGE IN THE EVACUATION OPERATION THEY WILL PASS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE UN RELIEF COMMITTEE...
SUPOPO-ROS, EXEC-UTIVE SECRE-TARY.

...NOW IS THE TIME TO LEND A HAND TO JAPAN!
AT ANY RATE, NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE AFRAID OF JAPAN...
...LEAVING MOMENTARILY ASIDE THE QUESTION OF THE ASSESSMENT STANDARDS
I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION METHOD PROPOSED BY CANADA...
THIS IS A NATURAL CATASTROPHE OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS THREATENING 2.5 PERCENT OF THE WORLD POPULATION WITH DESTRUCTION.
...THIS CALAMITY IS BY NO MEANS AN ACT OF "DIVINE JUSTICE" OR A "JUST PUNISHMENT" METED OUT ON THE JAPANESE PEOPLE...
YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, THIS IS NOT A MAN-MADE TRAGEDY BROUGHT ABOUT BY ETHNIC OR NATIONAL CONFLICTS...


...THE EARTHQUAKE IN GREECE, THE TYPHOON IN BENGAL, THE LOCUST PLAGUE IN SYRIA... MORE RECENTLY THE MASSIVE EARTHQUAKES IN PERU AND NICARAGUA...
SINCE ITS CREATION, THE UN HAS BEEN CALLED ON MANY OCCASIONS TO HELP WITH RESCUE EFFORTS IN THE WAKE OF NATURAL DISASTERS...
A WHOLE COUNTRY IS AT RISK OF BEING WIPED OUT, A COUNTRY WITH AN AREA OF 300,000 KM^2... A COUNTRY WHERE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE HAS BUILT A VERY PROSPEROUS SOCIETY...

BUT NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE FACED SOMETHING SO BIG, BIGGER THAN ALL NATURAL DISASTERS EVER EXPERIENCED BY MEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ATLANTIS LEGEND.
WE ARE ONLY LUCKY IN THAT, AS THE EXPERTS ASSURE US, THE CRUSTAL CHANGES ARE LIMITED TO ONE CORNER OF THE FAR EAST AND WILL NOT AFFECT OTHER AREAS.
HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE SCALE OF THE TRAGEDY AND ITS EFFECT ON THE WHOLE WORLD, WE MUST THINK OF THE RESCUE EFFORT AS A TEST OF OUR HUMANITY.

...AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST TO SOLVE THE QUESTIONS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE USE OF OUTER SPACE AND OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNDER THE SEA.
PAYING ATTENTION TO GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES AND EACH COUNTRY'S SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IS NOT ENOUGH... A TRULY EFFECTIVE RESCUE CAN BE CARRIED OUT ONLY IF WE COME TOGETHER AS MANKIND...
WE MUST TACKLE THE QUESTION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF REFUGEES FROM A COMMON POSITION...
ALL NATIONS MUST FORM A UNITED FRONT... EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD MUST JOIN IN THE EFFORT, OR RATHER THE "FIGHT"...
...BUT RATHER AS A PROBLEM FACING THE WHOLE WORLD, A PROBLEM TO CONFRONT THE STRENGTH OF OUR UNITY, STARTING WITH THIS COMMITTEE...
LET'S NOT THINK OF THIS AS A PROBLEM BESIEGING A SINGLE COUNTRY IN THE FAR EAST...

...HAS PLEDGED TO ACCEPT 500,000 JAPANESE IMMEDIATELY AND MORE AT A LATER TIME.
...I'M HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MONGOLIA...
EXCUSE THE INTER-RUPTION...

THEIR TERRITORY IS MOSTLY DESERT AND GRASSLANDS... BUT SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO EMBARK UPON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, THEY WILL GREATLY BENEFIT FROM HIGHLY-SKILLED JAPANESE TECHNICIANS.
A VERY EASY CHOICE... WITH AN AREA OF 1,560,000 KM² AND A POPULATION OF ONLY 1,300,000 THEY SUFFER FROM A CRITICAL LACK OF LABOUR.
LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THE QUESTION OF NEIGHBOURING AREAS IS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA...
...AND NEXT...
...WOULD LIKE THE COMMITTEE TO TAKE UP THE PROBLEM OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF KOREA.
NEXT, I'M BEING TOLD THE KOREAN DELEGATE...
...TO READ A MESSAGE FROM THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION...
...ALLOW ME...

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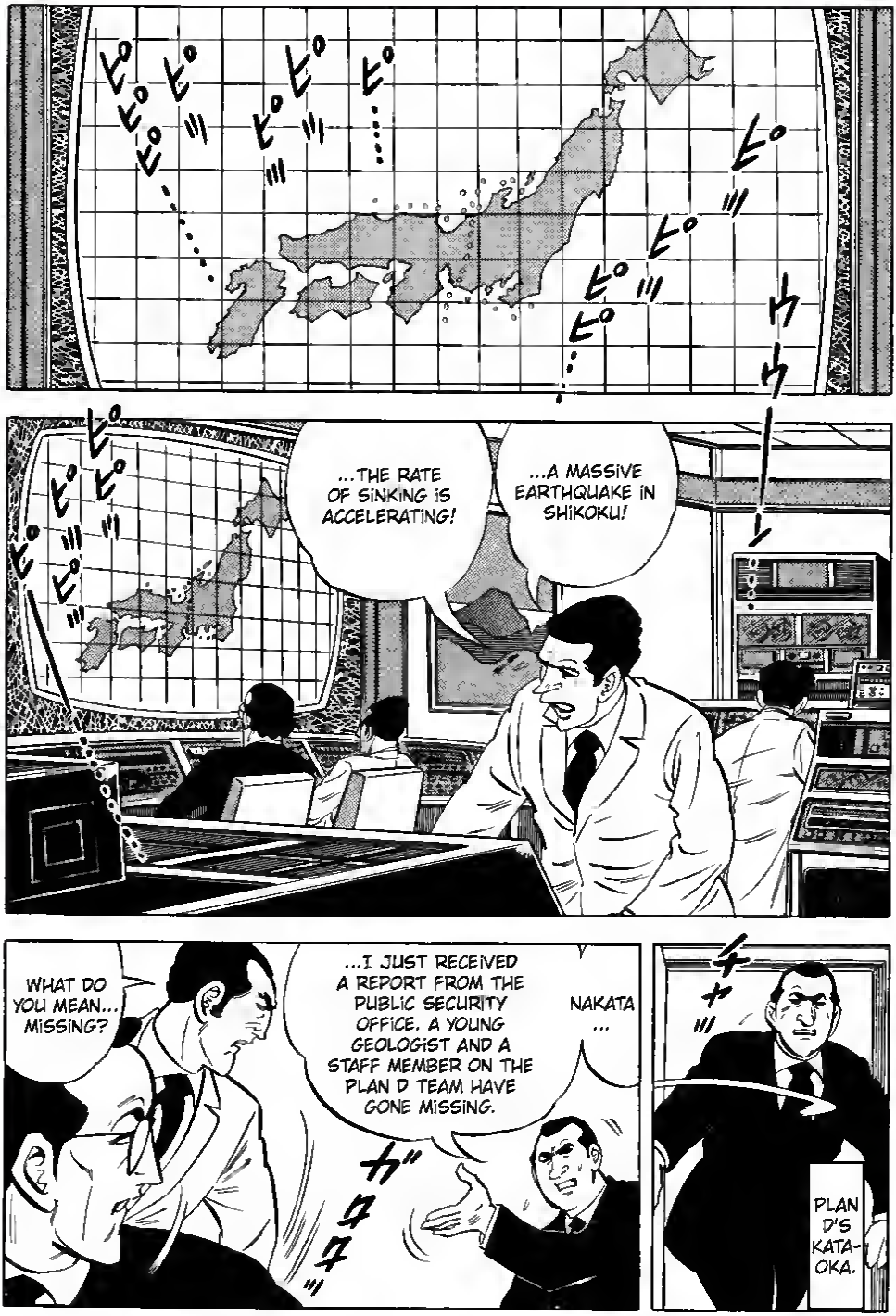
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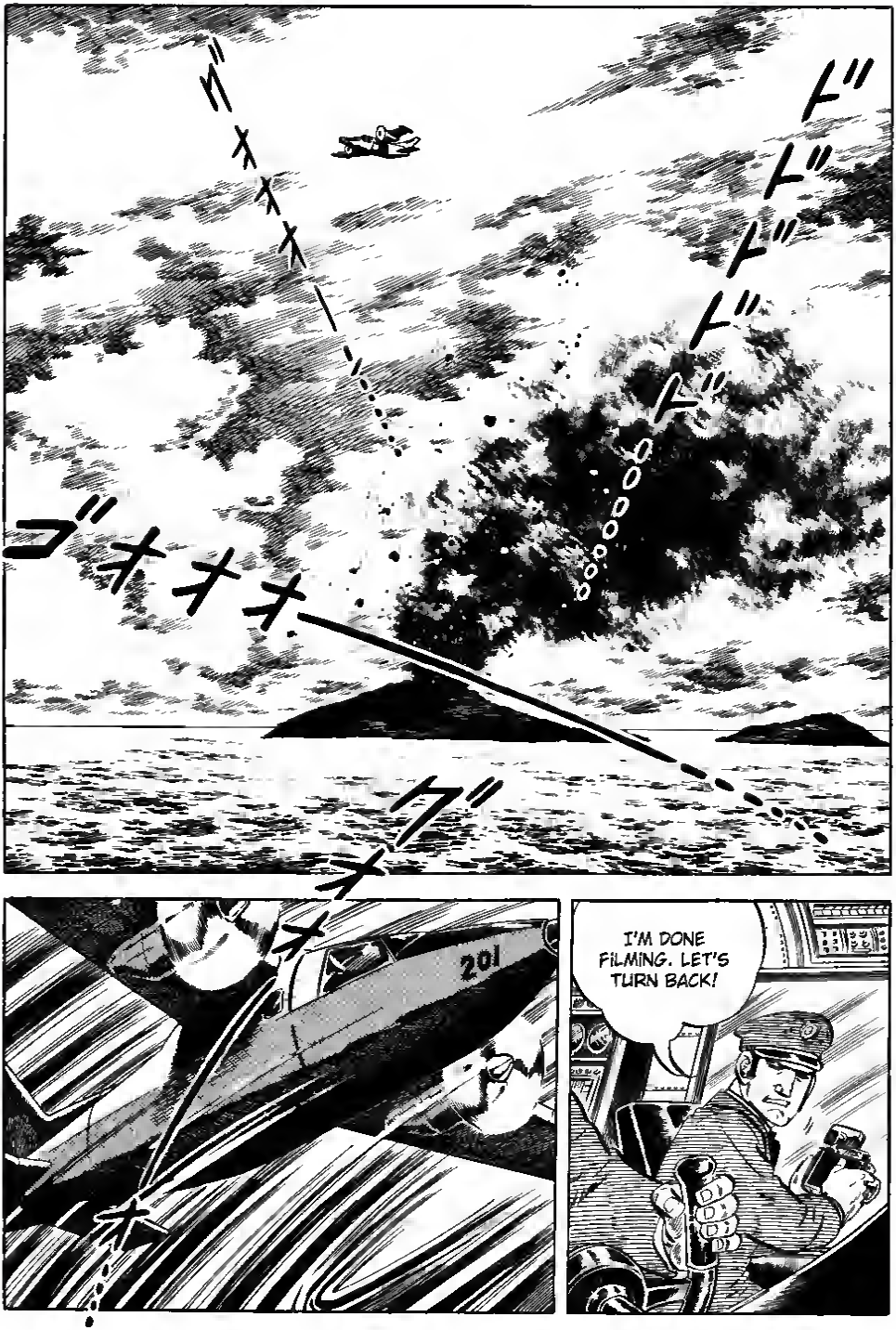
...AND SOME OF THE SURVEY DOCUMENTS HAVE VANISHED WITH THEM.
IN ANY CASE, "SOMEONE" SMUGGLED THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY. THEY'RE NOT IN JAPAN ANYMORE...
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT THEY WERE APPROACHED BY A MAN BELIEVED TO BE A FOREIGN JOURNALIST...
OUR COUNTRY IS IN A LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLE... AND THAT'S ALL THEY CAN THINK ABOUT?
...THE BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER IN WORLD, AND IN THE FAR EAST IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE AFFECTED BY JAPAN'S DEMISE.
LOOKS LIKE EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD IS SUDDENLY DESPERATE TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH ...
IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED THAT THEY'D DO ANYTHING TO GET THEIR HANDS ON EXTRA INFORMATION...
NO POINT IN GETTING ANGRY...
...NEARLY ONE FIFTH OF OUR STAFF HAS COLLAPSED FROM OVERWORK OR PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS!
THOSE TWO... WERE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO US!
AMERICAN, RUSSIA, EVEN CHINA, THEY MUST'VE ALL CONDUCTED INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS BUT, SINCE WE HAVE GATHERED THE MOST INFORMATION, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THEY'D WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE KNOW.
HOW WILL EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS AFFECT THE KOREAN PENINSULA, THE RUSSIAN MARITIME REGION, THE CHINESE YELLOW SEA REGION, THE EAST CHINA SEA COASTLINE, TAIWAN?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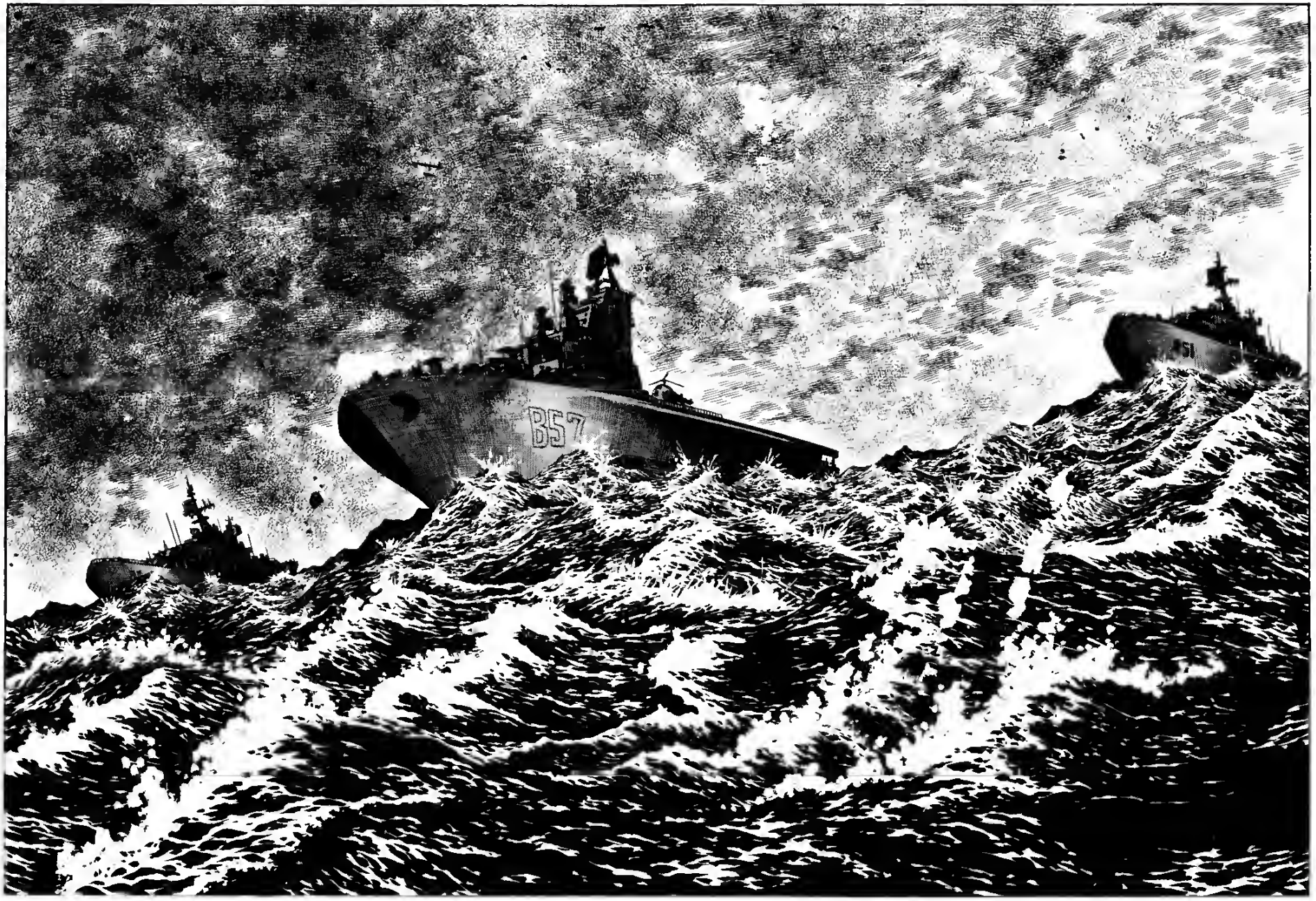
ONE AIRCRAFT CARRIER... TWO CASSIN-CLASS DESTROYERS...
WHAT FLAG ARE THEY FLYING?
...WHY ARE THEY IN JAPANESE WATERS?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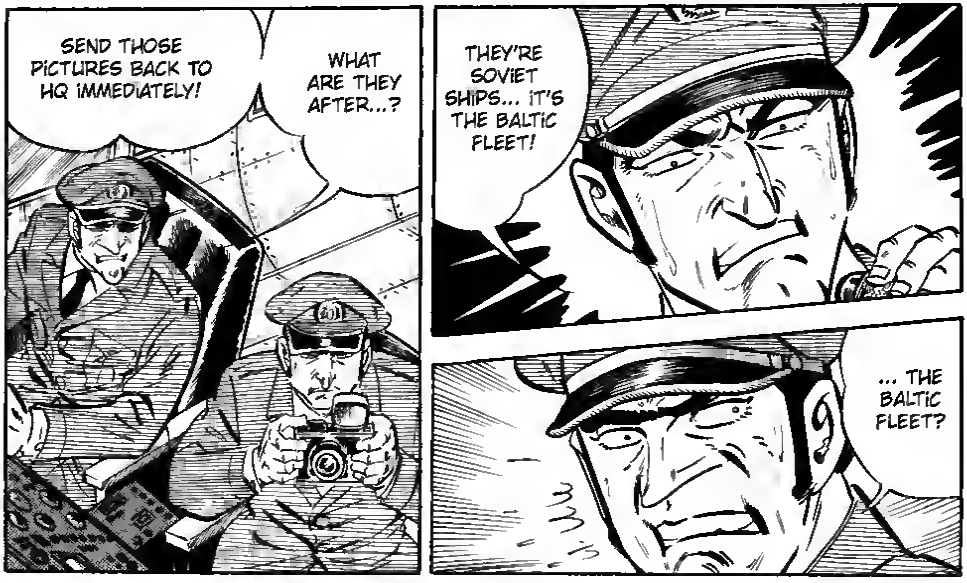
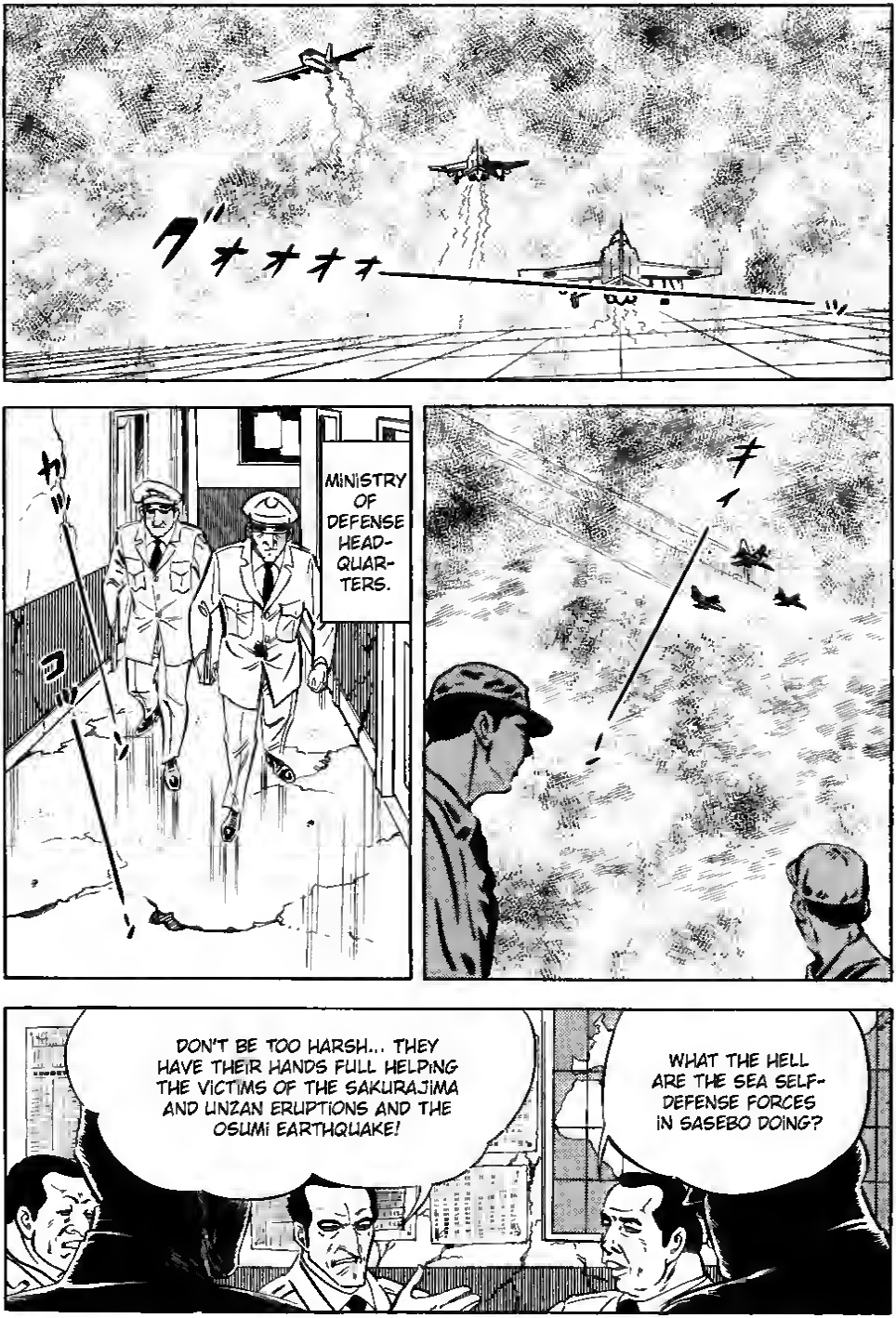

SEND THOSE PICTURES BACK TO HQ IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT ARE THEY AFTER...?
THEY'RE SOVIET SHIPS... IT'S THE BALTIC FLEET!
... THE BALTIC FLEET?

*SCRAMBLE ORDER: ORDER TO A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO TAKE OFF IMMEDIATELY IN AN EMERGENCY.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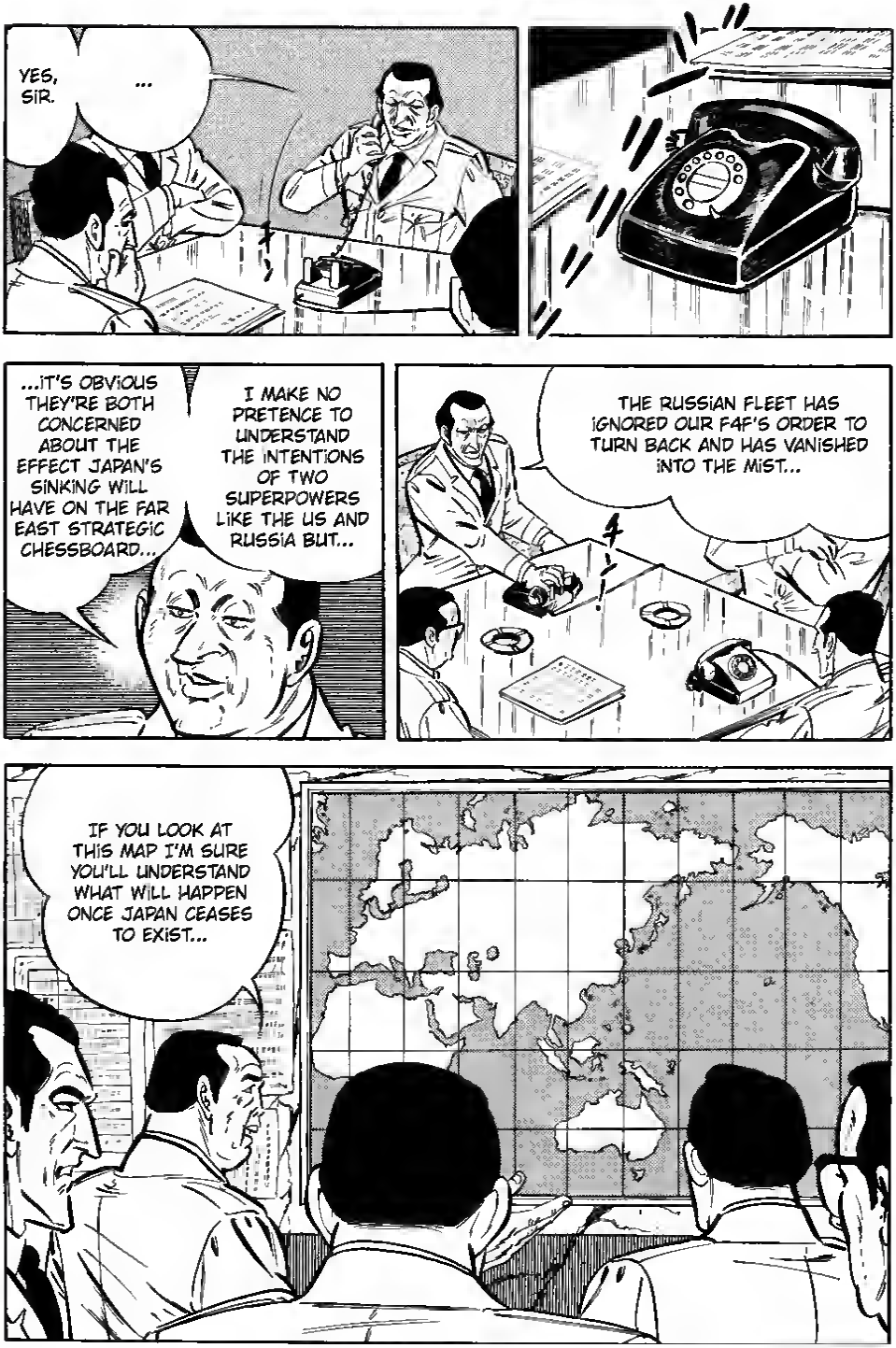
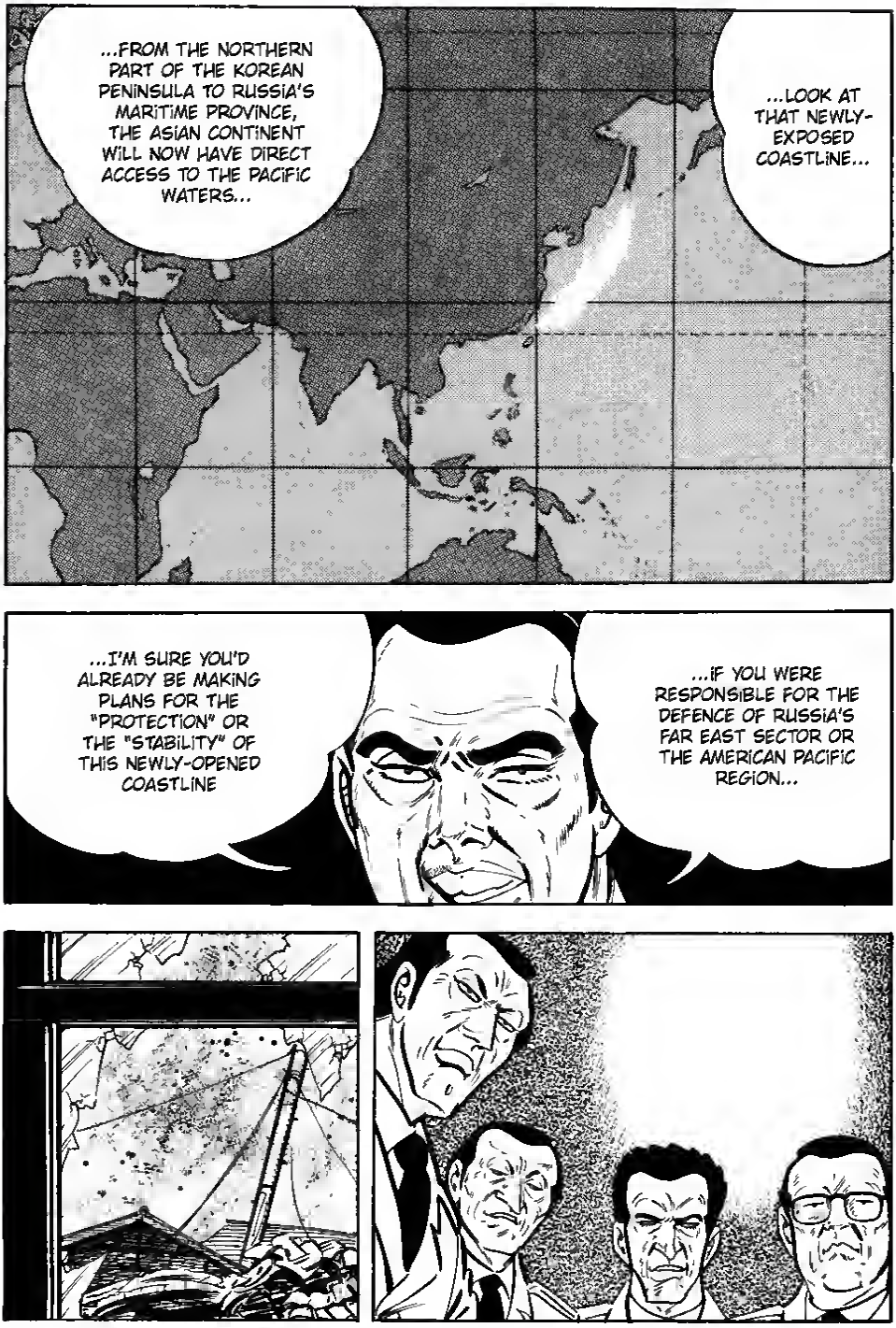
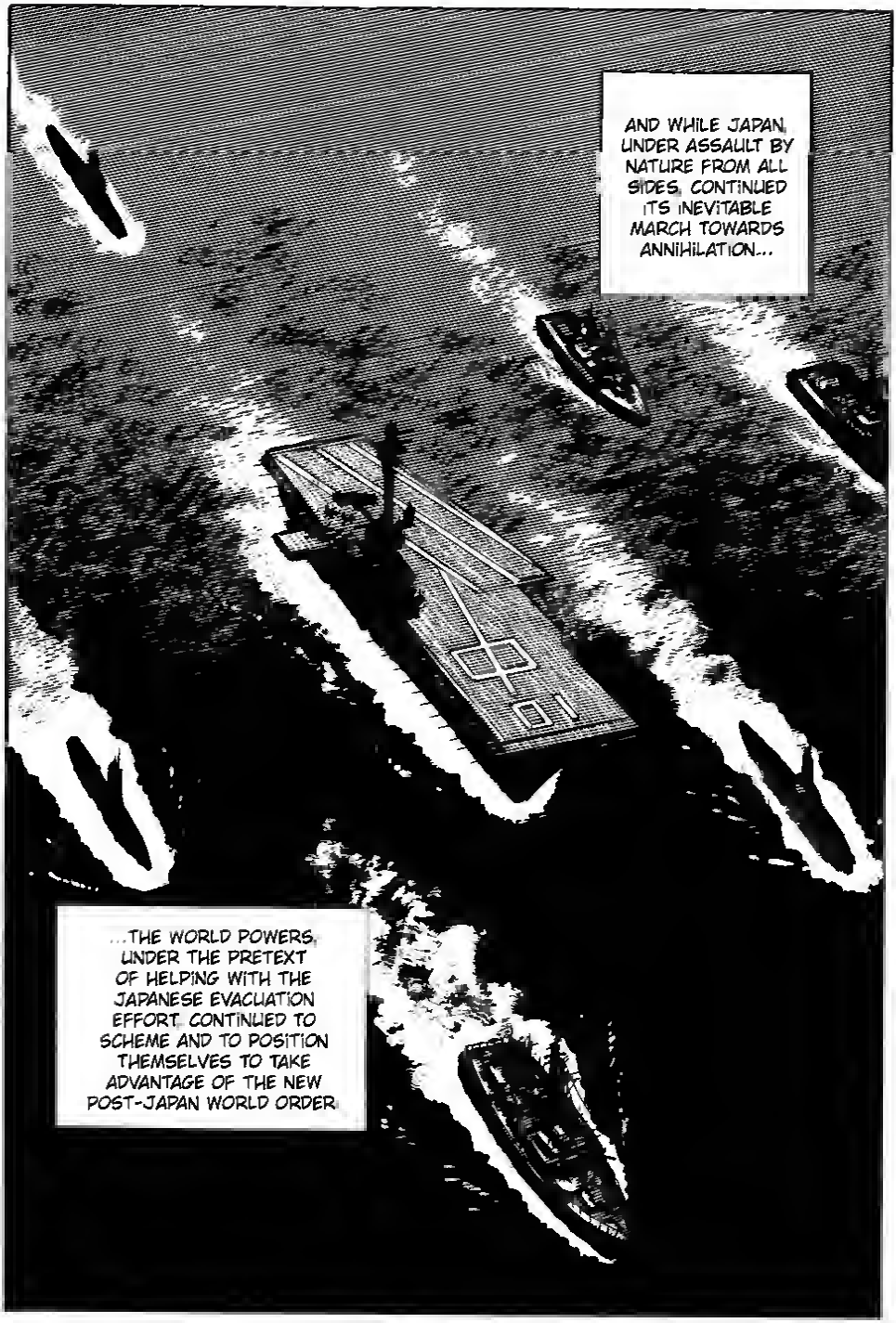
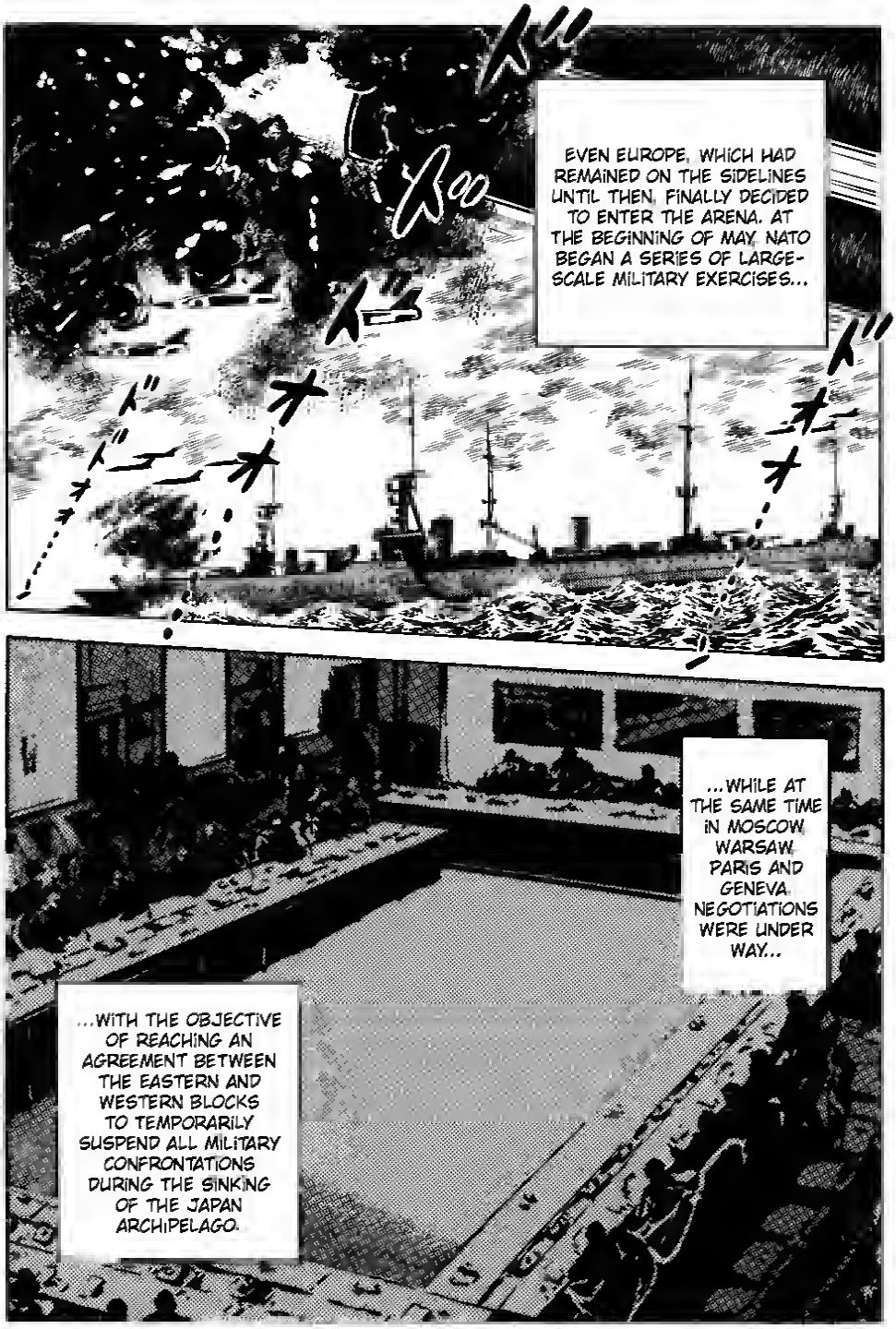
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HEAD-QUAR-TERS.
DON'T BE TOO HARSH... THEY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL HELPING THE VICTIMS OF THE SAKURAJIMA AND UNZAN ERUPTIONS AND THE OSUMI EARTHQUAKE!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THE SEA SELF-DEFENSE FORCES IN SASEBO DOING?

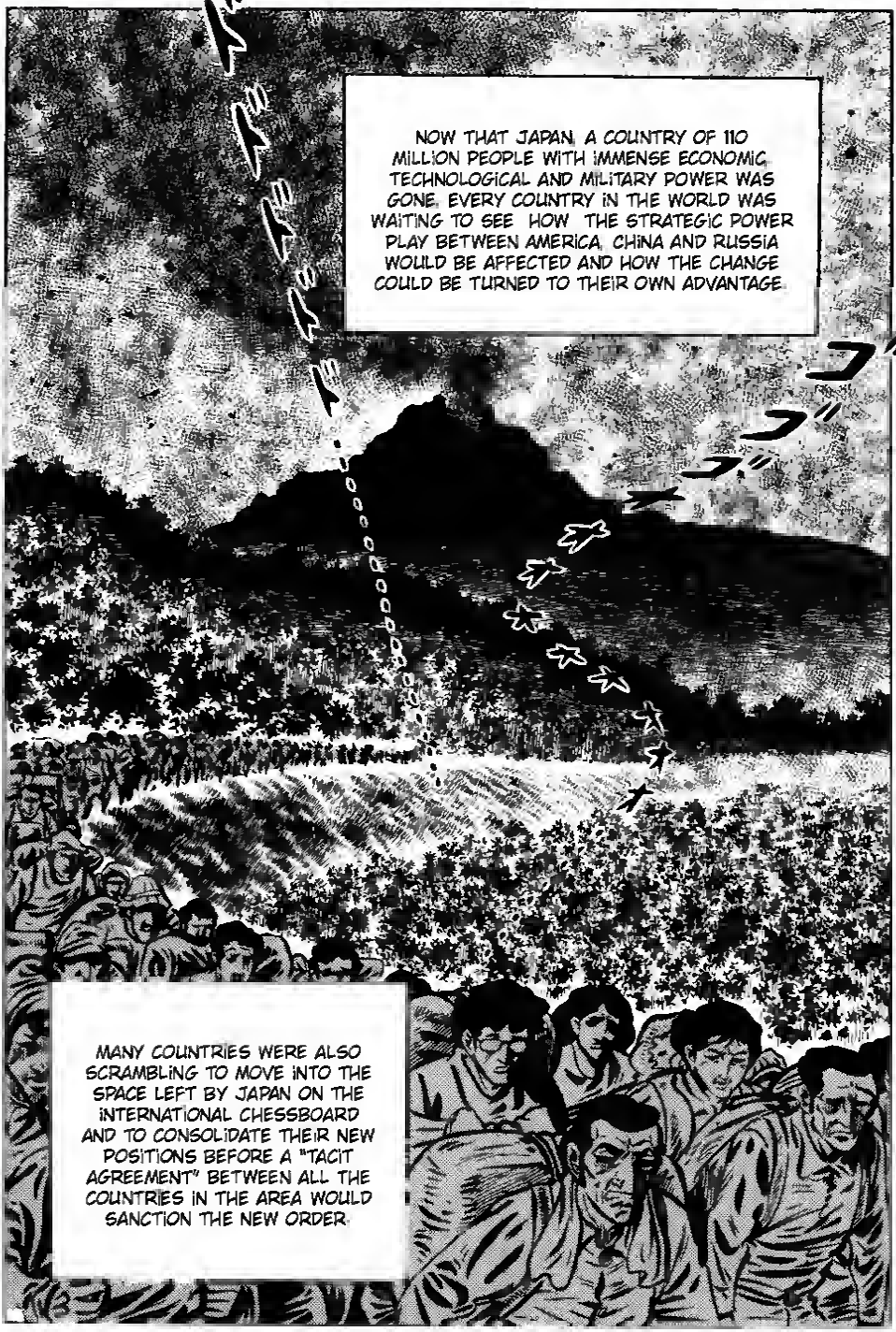
JUST A FEW DAYS AGO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS SCREAMING BLOODY MURDER ABOUT THE "BRAZEN PROVOCATION" OF A SOVIET SUBMARINE IN THE VICINITY OF AOSHIMA...
AT ANY RATE, WE MUST INFORM THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY SO THEY CAN DENOUNCE THE INVASION OF OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS!
...OUR FATHERS WOULD BE TERRIFIED!
THE BALTIC FLEET...
...AMERICA'S SEVENTH FLEET HAS BEGUN OPERATIONS ACROSS THE WHOLE PACIFIC AREA.
A NEW REPORT JUST IN...
ガヤヤ
THE US PRESIDENT HAS OFFICIALLY STATED IT'S PART OF A "COMPREHENSIVE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO ASSIST THE JAPANESE PEOPLE" BUT...
... SOME VESSELS FROM THE EAST PACIFIC FIRST FLEET HAVE ALSO JOINED IN,,, AND THE FAR EAST AIRFORCES' FIFTH, SEVENTH AND THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE ARE REPORTEDLY IN A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY...

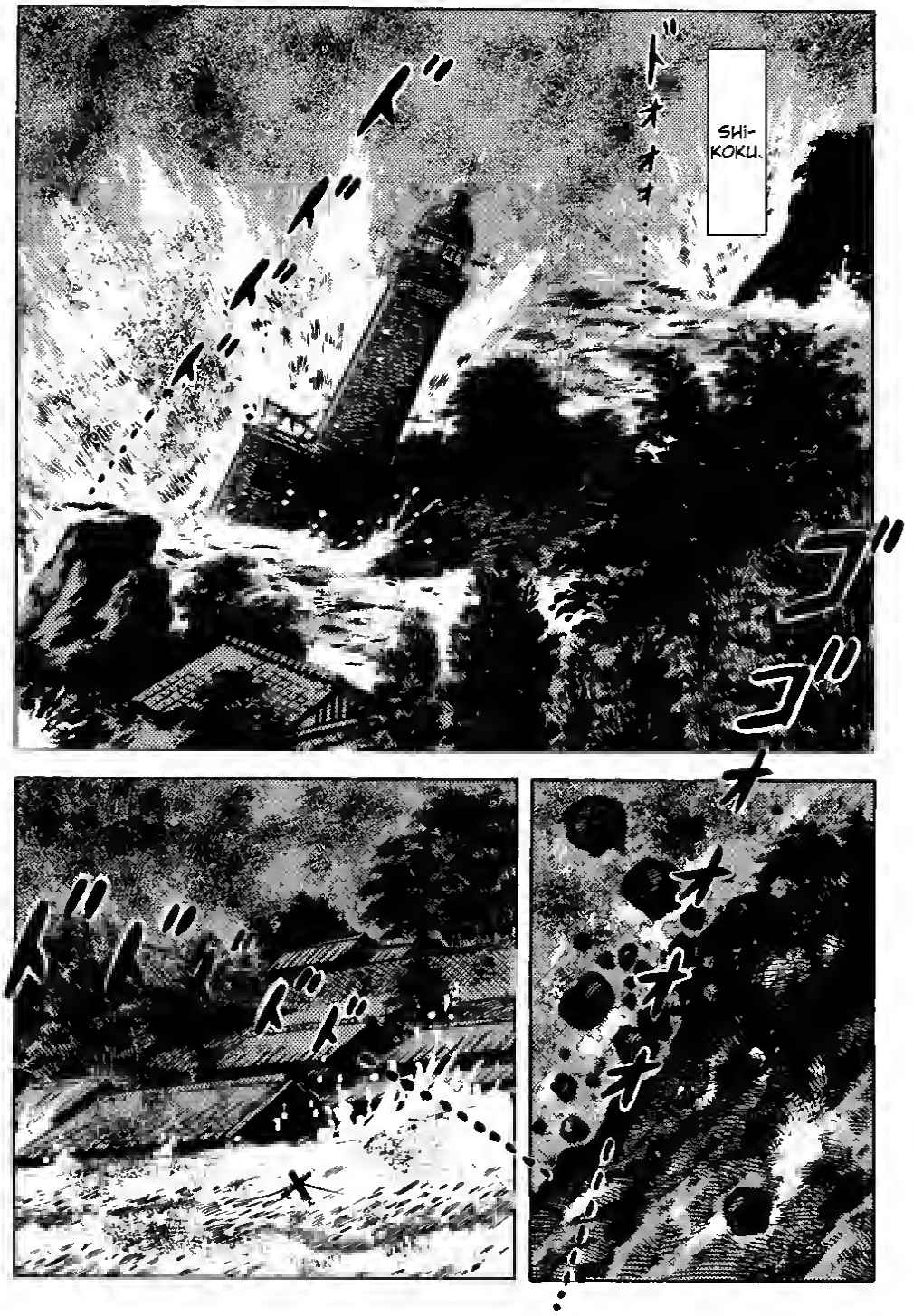

YES, SIR.
...
...IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE BOTH CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT JAPAN'S SINKING WILL HAVE ON THE FAR EAST STRATEGIC CHESSBOARD...
I MAKE NO PRETENCE TO UNDERSTAND THE INTENTIONS OF TWO SUPERPOWERS LIKE THE US AND RUSSIA BUT...
THE RUSSIAN FLEET HAS IGNORED OUR F4F'S ORDER TO TURN BACK AND HAS VANISHED INTO THE MIST...
IF YOU LOOK AT THIS MAP I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE JAPAN CEASES TO EXIST...


...FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA TO RUSSIA'S MARITIME PROVINCE, THE ASIAN CONTINENT WILL NOW HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE PACIFIC WATERS...
...LOOK AT THAT NEWLY-EXPOSED COASTLINE...
...I'M SURE YOU'D ALREADY BE MAKING PLANS FOR THE "PROTECTION" OR THE "STABILITY" OF THIS NEWLY-OPENED COASTLINE
...IF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEFENCE OF RUSSIA'S FAR EAST SECTOR OR THE AMERICAN PACIFIC REGION...


AND WHILE JAPAN, UNDER ASSAULT BY NATURE FROM ALL SIDES, CONTINUED ITS INEVITABLE MARCH TOWARDS ANNIHILATION...
...THE WORLD POWERS, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF HELPING WITH THE JAPANESE EVACUATION EFFORT, CONTINUED TO SCHEME AND TO POSITION THEMSELVES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW POST-JAPAN WORLD ORDER.


EVEN EUROPE, WHICH HAD REMAINED ON THE SIDELINES UNTIL THEN, FINALLY DECIDED TO ENTER THE ARENA. AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY, NATO BEGAN A SERIES OF LARGE-SCALE MILITARY EXERCISES...
...WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IN MOSCOW, WARSAW, PARIS AND GENEVA, NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDER WAY...
...WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN BLOCKS TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND ALL MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS DURING THE SINKING OF THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO.


NOW THAT JAPAN, A COUNTRY OF 110 MILLION PEOPLE WITH IMMENSE ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MILITARY POWER WAS GONE, EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WAS WAITING TO SEE HOW THE STRATEGIC POWER PLAY BETWEEN AMERICA, CHINA AND RUSSIA WOULD BE AFFECTED AND HOW THE CHANGE COULD BE TURNED TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE.
MANY COUNTRIES WERE ALSO SCRAMBLING TO MOVE INTO THE SPACE LEFT BY JAPAN ON THE INTERNATIONAL CHESSBOARD AND TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR NEW POSITIONS BEFORE A "TACIT AGREEMENT" BETWEEN ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WOULD SANCTION THE NEW ORDER.


SHI-
KOKU.

OH GOD, PLEASE...
...THIS PLACE IS DOOMED!
...HURRY!
RUN, RUN!
WAH...!
HEEEELP!
...GHAAA!
YAAAAH!

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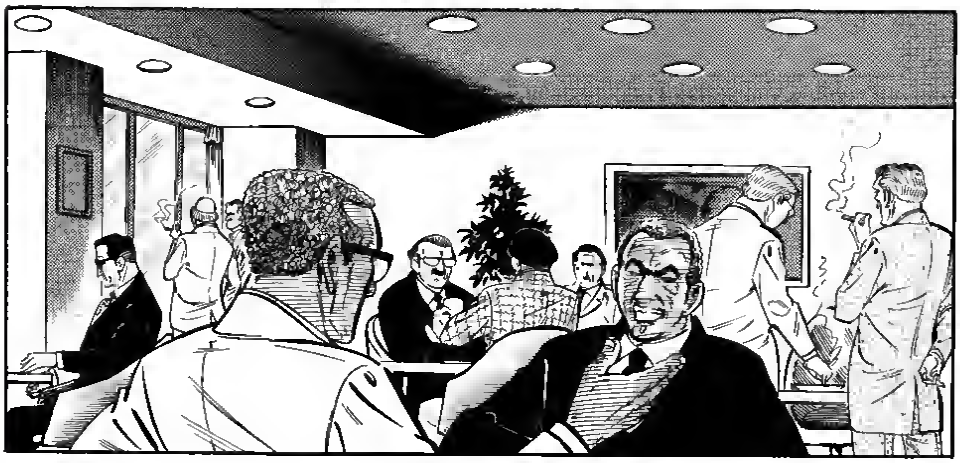
NEW
YORK



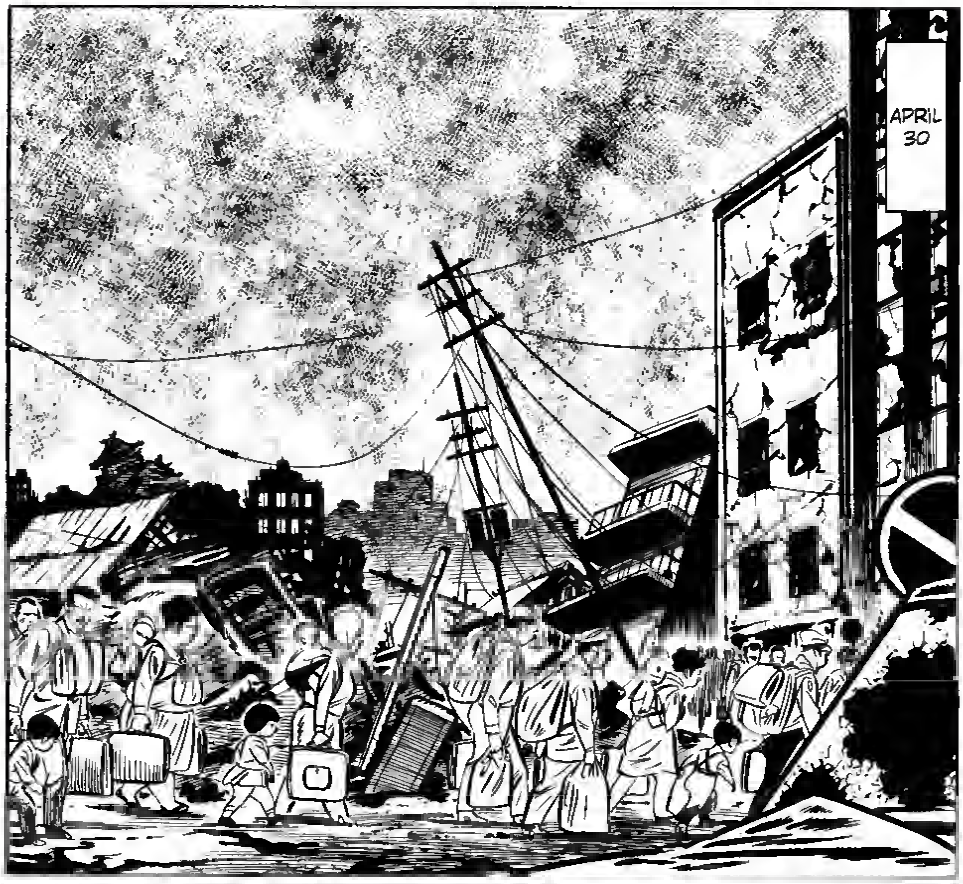
STARTING AT SIX, CBS WILL AIR...
WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT ABOUT...?
...CBS'S ED HAWKINS WILL BE COMMENTING FROM THE AREA.
...A LIVE SATELLITE BROADCAST OF THE UPHEAVAL IN WESTERN JAPAN.....
THAT MAN OVER THERE...
WAIT.
SHALL WE GO HAVE A LOOK?
...YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT.

...
...HE'S MR. NOZAKI, THE JAPANESE MEMBER OF THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON JAPAN'S RELIEF OPERATIONS...
PUT YOURSELF IN HIS SHOES...
...HIS MOTHER COUNTRY IS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR UNDER THE SEA.
...THE COUNTRY WHERE HIS ANCESTORS LIVED... THE RIVERS, THE MOUNTAINS, THE FORESTS AND THE FIELDS WHERE THEIR SOULS ARE NOW RESTING...
...ALL OF IT... IS GOING TO BE WIPED OUT... AND THE CATTLE, THE BIRDS AND ALL OTHER ANIMALS...
...THE HOUSES, THE VILLAGES, THE GRAVES... THE MONKEYS AND THE HIPPOS...
...THEY HAVE MONKEYS AND HIPPOS IN JAPAN?
...WHO WOULDN'T BE OVERWHELMED WITH SADNESS?
IF I THINK ABOUT THAT OLD MAN'S SORROW... AND THE 110 MILLION PEOPLE WHO ARE FLEEING IN TERROR FROM OF THE BIGGEST NATURAL DISASTERS EVER...
...THE FEAR IN THE CHILDREN'S EYES... THE ANGUISH OF THEIR MOTHERS...

TELEVISION IS FOR FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT... IT'S ALL RIGHT TO WATCH A COMEDY SHOW OR A MOVIE ON TV BUT... THEY SHOULD NEVER BROADCAST NEWS OR DRAMATIC EVENTS.
YOU'RE... ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT.
...DO YOU?
...DO I REALLY WANT TO WATCH IT ALL ON A COMMERCIAL-FILLED TV SHOW, INSIDE A COMFORTABLE BUILDING IN A COUNTRY FAR REMOVED FROM THAT TRAGEDY...?
THE HEAD OF A COUNTRY POURS HIS SOUL INTO HIS MESSAGE BUT... DOES HIS SOUL EVER REALLY COME OUT AT THE OTHER END OF THAT ELECTRONIC BOX...?
EVEN IN MY COUNTRY, WHEN THEY BROADCAST OUR PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES, THERE ARE ALWAYS ARGUMENTS...
... THE INFLUX OF JAPANESE REFUGEES WILL HAVE ON THE ONGOING UNIFICATION PROCESS IN OUR NATIVE AFRICA.
...JUST TO ASK HIM HIS PRIVATE OPINION ON THE IMPACT...
NOT TO CONSOLE HIM, NO... HE'S A MAN, AFTER ALL, LIKE US...
LET'S GO TO HIM.

...THEY HAVEN'T SHOWN ANY IMAGES... I JUST HEARD ED'S VOICE...
...I'M NOT SURE... I HEARD A NAME LIKE..." SHIKOKU"...
...WHICH PART DID THEY SAY WAS SINKING?

Chapter 9: Japan sinks



WHEREAS ONLY THE PREVIOUS YEAR, DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD IN APRIL CALLED "GOLDEN WEEK", LARGE CROWDS OF PEOPLE HAD BEEN CELEBRATING EVERYWHERE WITH THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, THIS YEAR, WORN DOWN BY EXHAUSTION AND HUNGER, PALE WITH FEAR AND ANXIETY, PEOPLE WERE MOVING IN LONG LINES TOWARDS THE DESIGNATED EVACUATION POINTS...

近畿退避計画本部
KINKI REGION EVACUATION COMMITTEE
THEY'RE SOMEHOW MANAGING UP TO 500 FLIGHTS A DAY...
HOW'S THE SITUATION AT ITAMI AIRPORT?
...THE WATER IS RISING TOO FAST, WE CAN'T USE THE NEW AIRPORT ANYMORE.
WITH THE SINKING BECOMING MORE PRONOUNCED, THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL WHARVES IS DECREASING RAPIDLY.
ON THE MINUS SIDE, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVACUATED BY SEA HAS DROPPED.
...IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY 500,000 PEOPLE A MONTH.
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE GREEN LIGHT TO USE ARMY TRANSPORT PLANES...
... HARBOURS THERE ARE OPERATING AT TEN PERCENT CAPACITY.
SAME SITUATION IN HYOGO, WAKAYAMA AND MIE...
IN OSAKA PORT, KONOHANA AND TAISHO ARE COMPLETELY UNDERWATER, AND WITH BENTEN OUT OF USE TOO, SHIPS HAVE TO ANCHOR EITHER IN THE SHINYODO AND AJI RIVERS OR OFFSHORE, SLOWING THINGS CONSIDERABLY.

...THAT'S NOT TOO BAD FOR KINKI ALONE.
3.5 MIL-LION...
... BY SEA AND AIR TOGETHER... 3.5 MILLION.
OF THE 30 MILLION PEOPLE IN KINKI REGION'S SIX PREFEC-TURES...
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE WE EVACUATED IN THE PAST MONTH?
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BESIDES, WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS WILL BE DOWN IN JUNE DUE THE RAINY SEASON, AND IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH TYPHOONS TOO.
HOWEVER, THEY'RE SHIFTING PART OF THE EVACUEES IN OKAYAMA AND TOKUSHIMA OVER TO OUR DISTRICT.
AT D-1 HEADQUARTERS THEY THINK 3.2 MILLION PEOPLE A MONTH WOULD BE JUST ENOUGH TO MEET THE TEN-MONTH DEADLINE...
...AGREED!
WE MUST REVISE OUR GOALS UPWARDS ONCE MORE.
THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO SHOOT FOR 5 MILLION A MONTH.

KOBE HARBOUR

HURRY!
PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY WAY.
WATCH YOUR STEP!
PLEASE HURRY UP!
DO NOT PUSH.
AFTER BOARDING, PLEASE MOVE TO THE INTERIOR OF THE SHIP.
WHAT... WAS THAT?!
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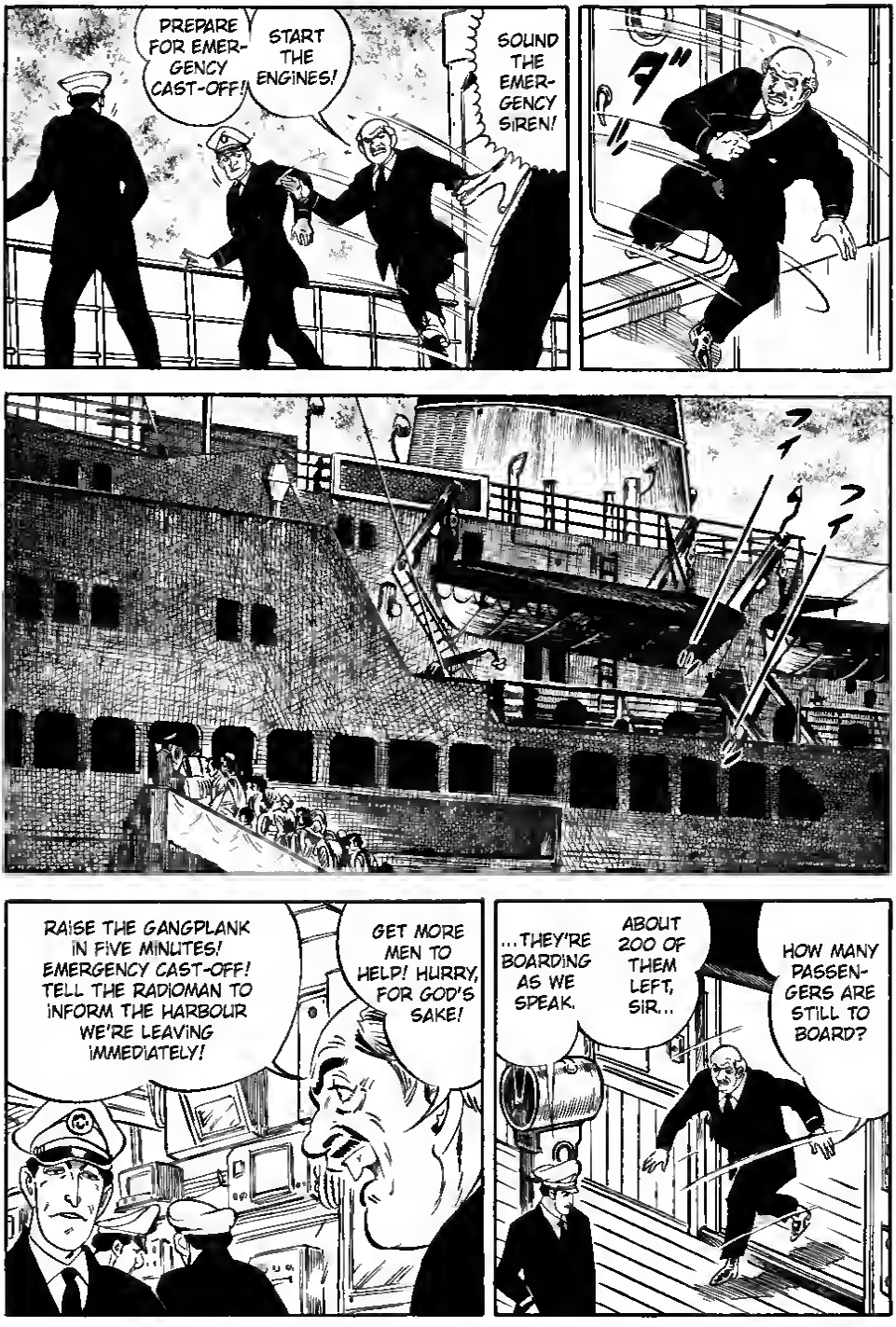
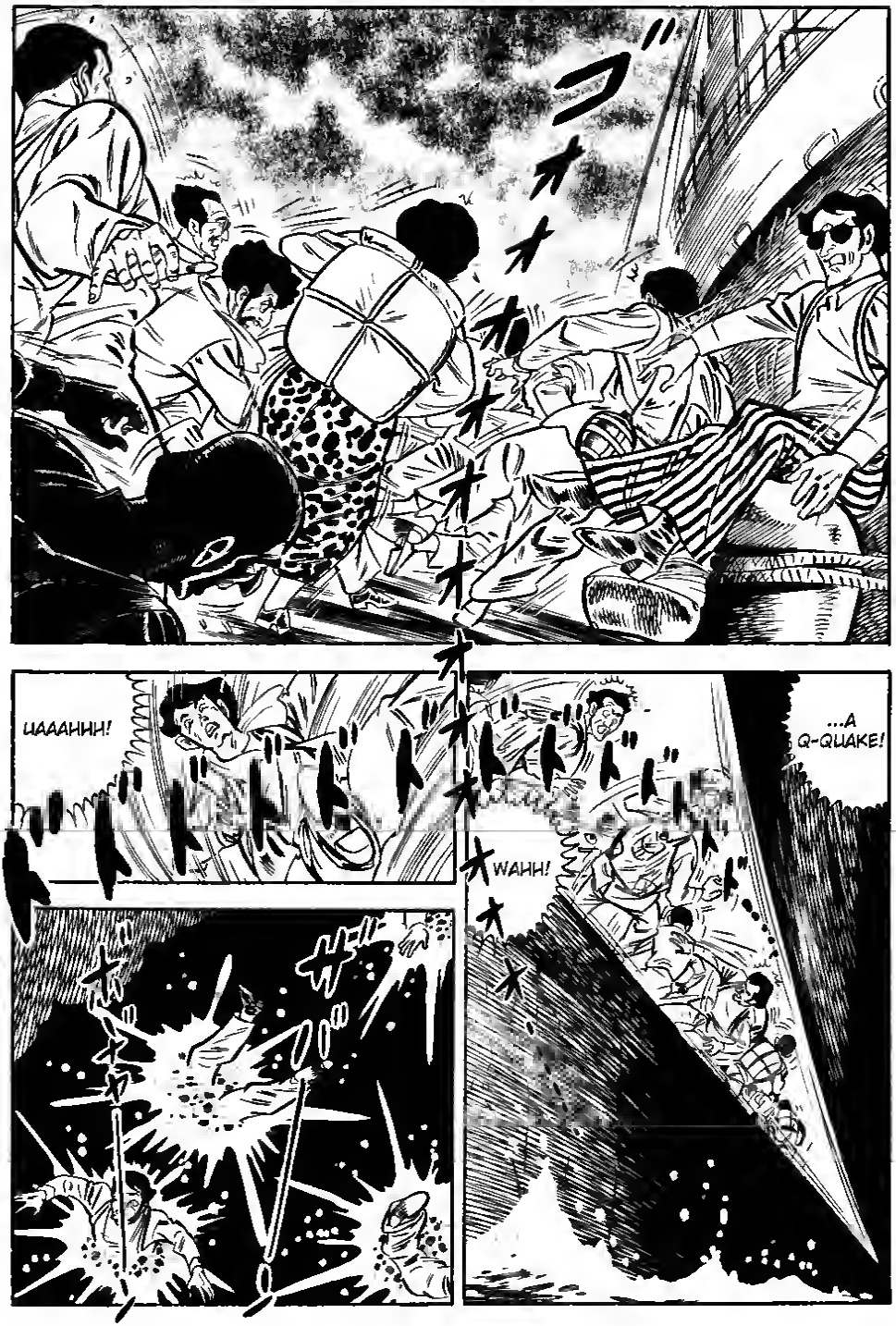

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY CAST-OFF!
START THE ENGINES!
SOUND THE EMERGENCY SIREN!
RAISE THE GANGPLANK IN FIVE MINUTES! EMERGENCY CAST-OFF! TELL THE RADIOMAN TO INFORM THE HARBOUR WE'RE LEAVING IMMEDIATELY!
GET MORE MEN TO HELP! HURRY, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
...THEY'RE BOARDING AS WE SPEAK.
ABOUT 200 OF THEM LEFT, SIR...
HOW MANY PASSENGERS ARE STILL TO BOARD?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, SIR?
LET ALL THE SHIPS KNOW THEY MUST GET OUT TO SEA!
BLOW THE HORN!
A TSUNAMI MAY BE ON ITS WAY!
A TSUNAMI, YOU FOOL!
WE'RE LEAVING SOON.
HURRY UP! EVERYONE, PLEASE HURRY!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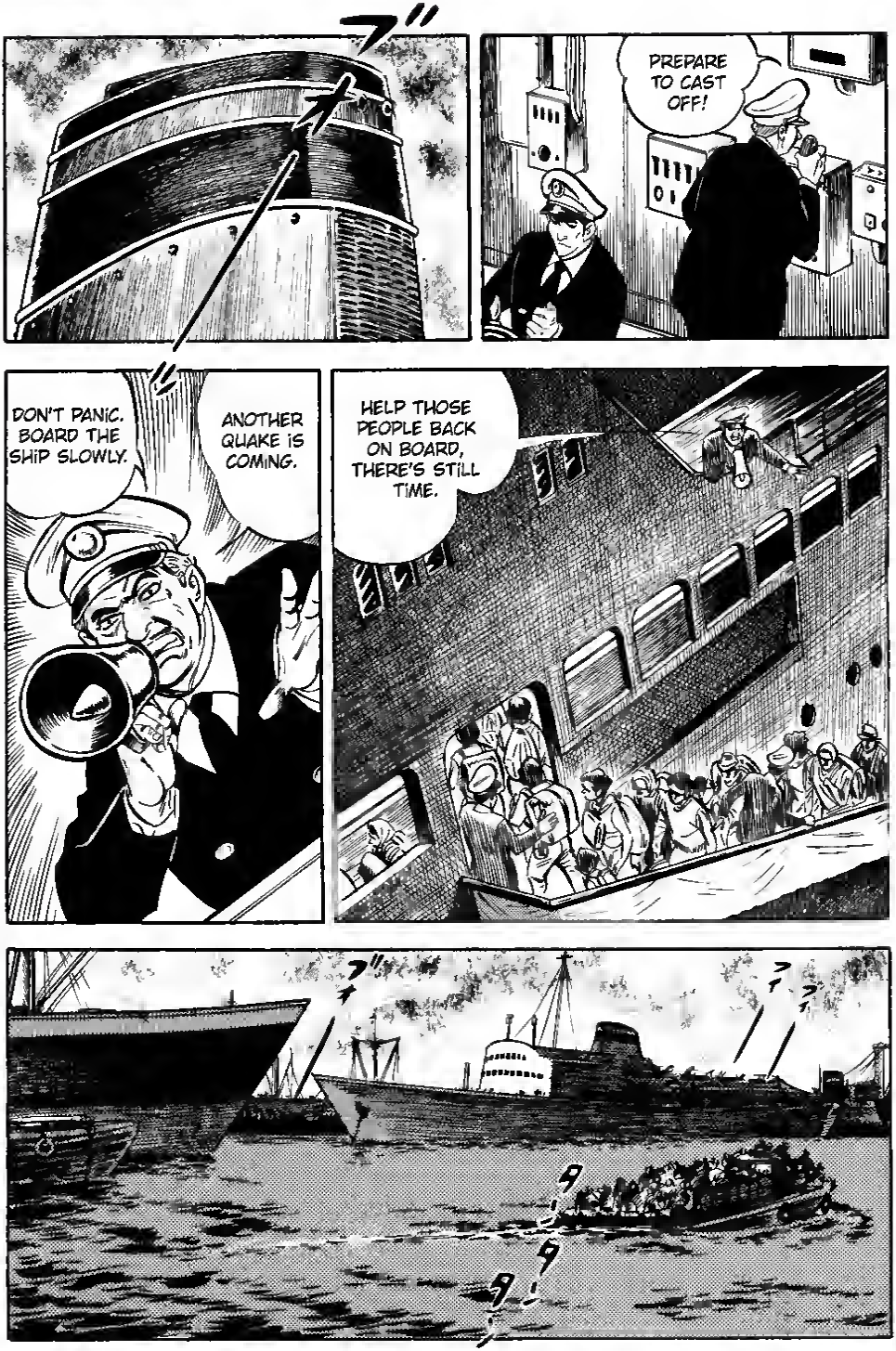
UAAAHHH!
...A Q-QUAKE!
WAHH!


PREPARE TO CAST OFF!
DON'T PANIC. BOARD THE SHIP SLOWLY.
ANOTHER QUAKE IS COMING.
HELP THOSE PEOPLE BACK ON BOARD, THERE'S STILL TIME.

OSAKA INTER-NATIONAL AIRPORT
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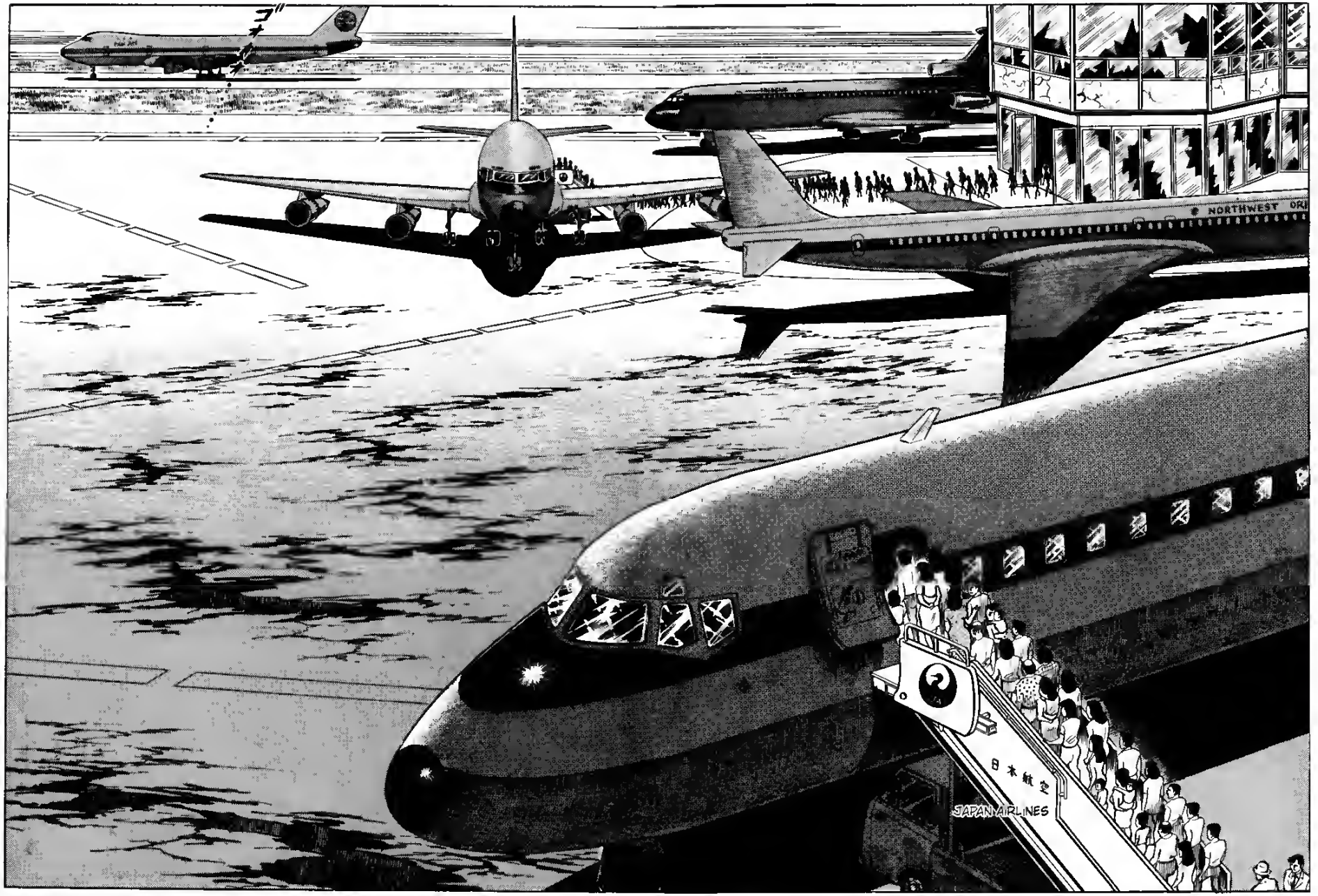
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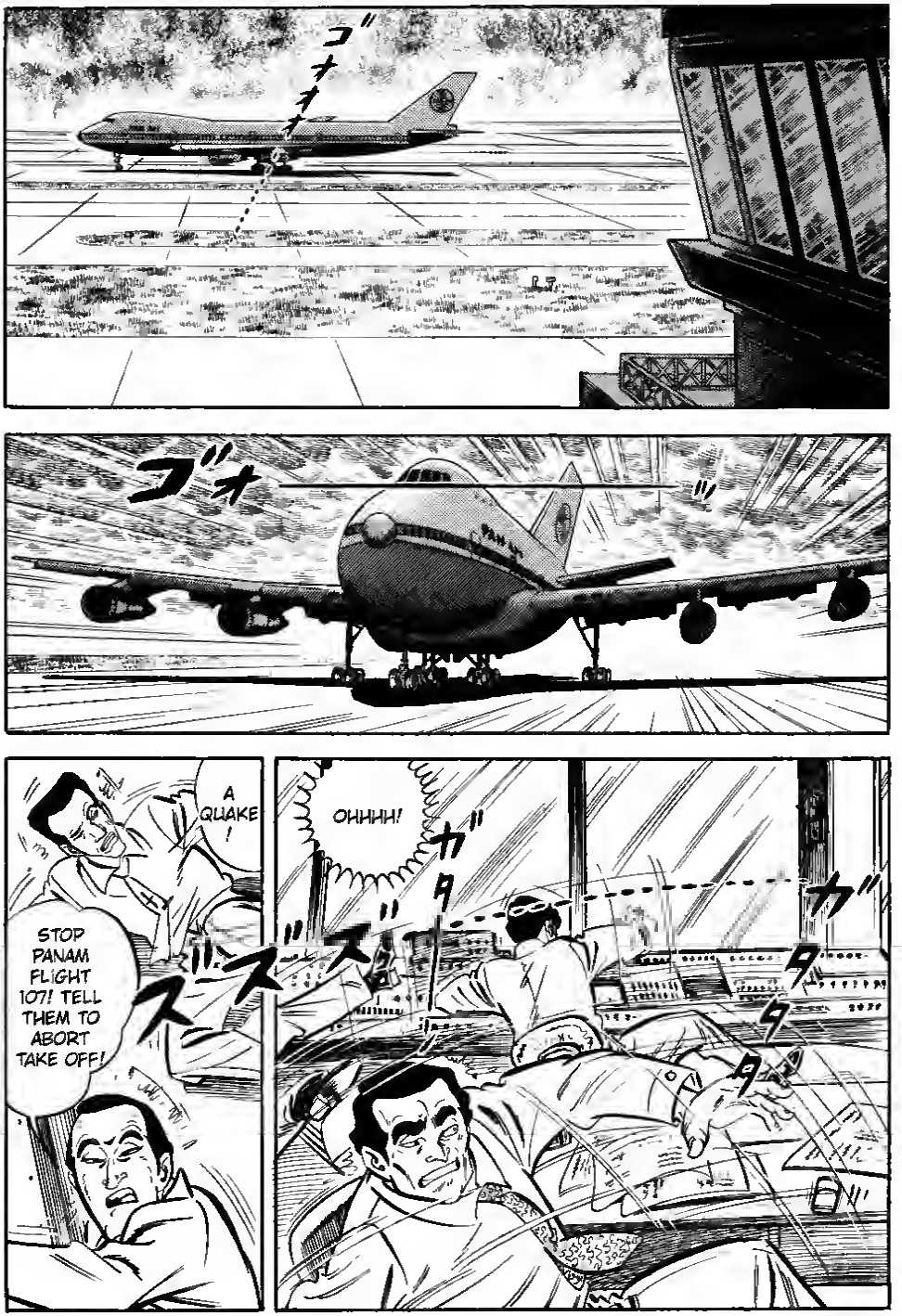
NORTHWEST
日本航空
JAPAN AIRLINES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PAN AM
A QUAKE!
STOP PANAM FLIGHT 107! TELL THEM TO ABORT TAKE OFF!
OHHHH!
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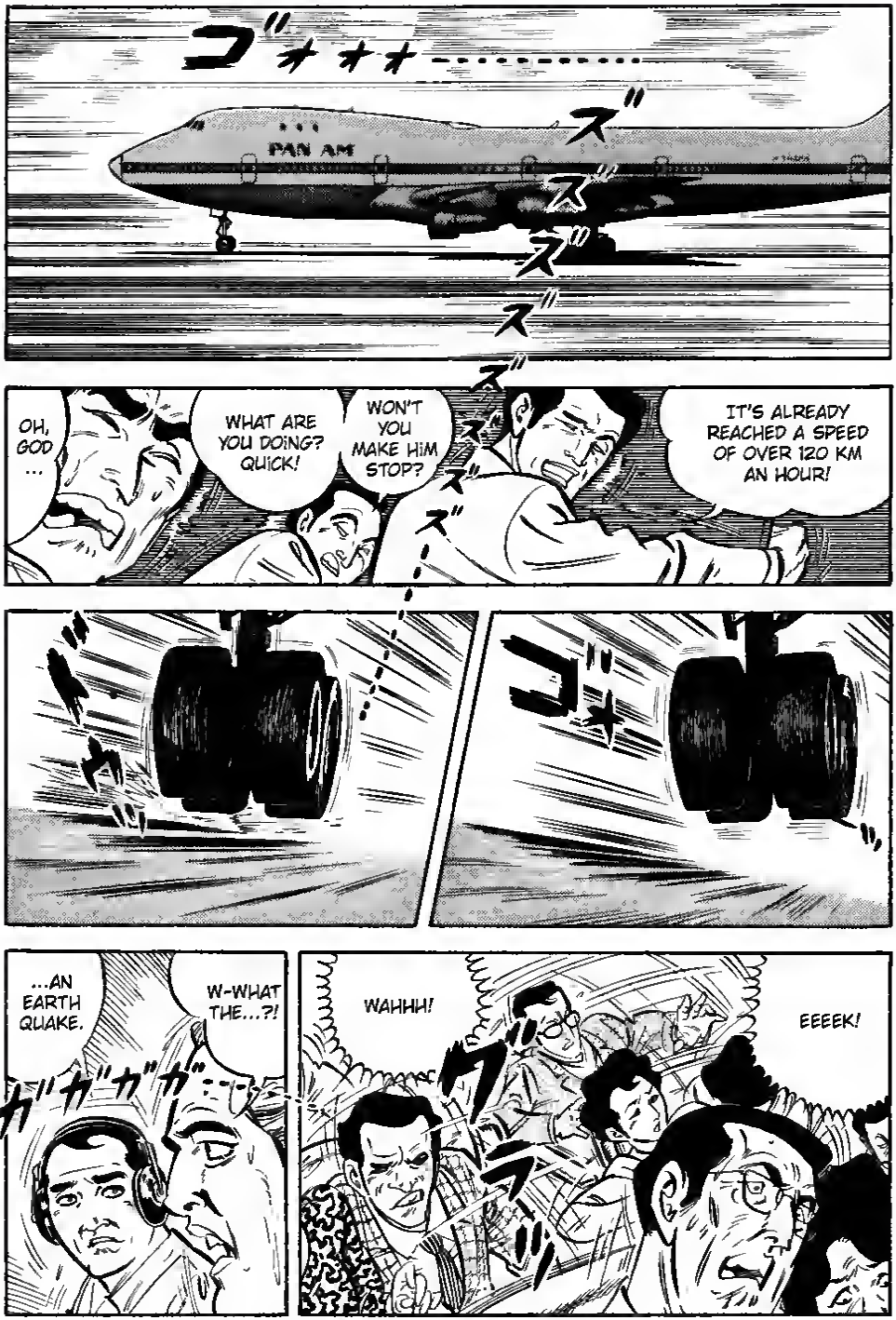
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PAN AM
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OH, GOD …
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? QUICK!
WON'T YOU MAKE HIM STOP?
IT'S ALREADY REACHED A SPEED OF OVER 120 KM AN HOUR!
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…AN EARTH QUAKE.
W-WHAT THE…?!
ガガガガ…
WAHHH!
EEEEK!
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GO UP! ESCAPE TO THE SKY! ...TO THE SKY!
TAKE OFF AT FULL THROTTLE!
... UP AND DOWN LIKE CRAZY!
...WE'RE BOUNC-ING...
...
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...THIS IS THE CONTROL TOWER!
...TO ALL PLANES!
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...THEY DID IT!
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A QUAKE is COMING!
CUT THE ENGINES!
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
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ITAMI AIR-PORT.
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GHHAA!

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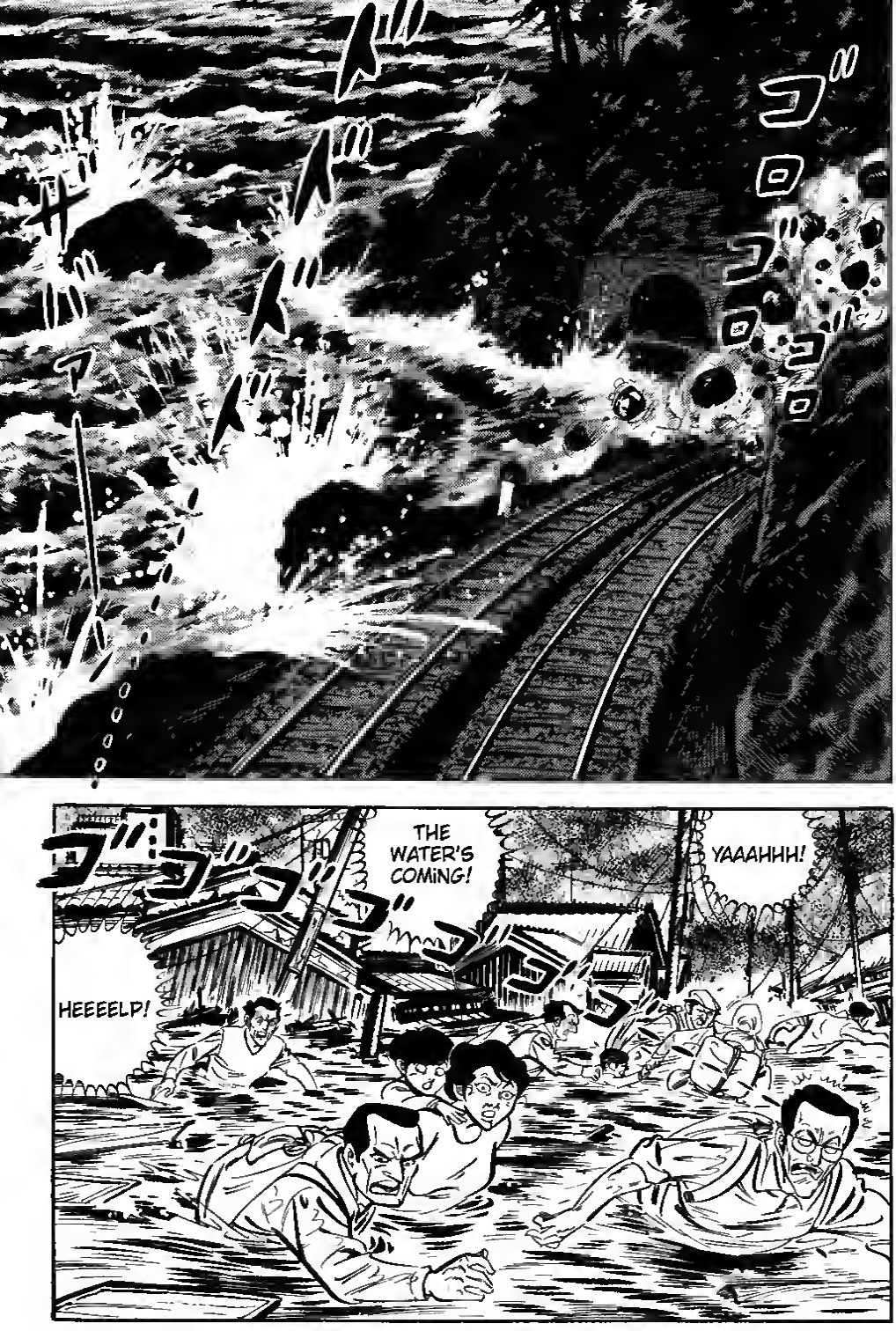
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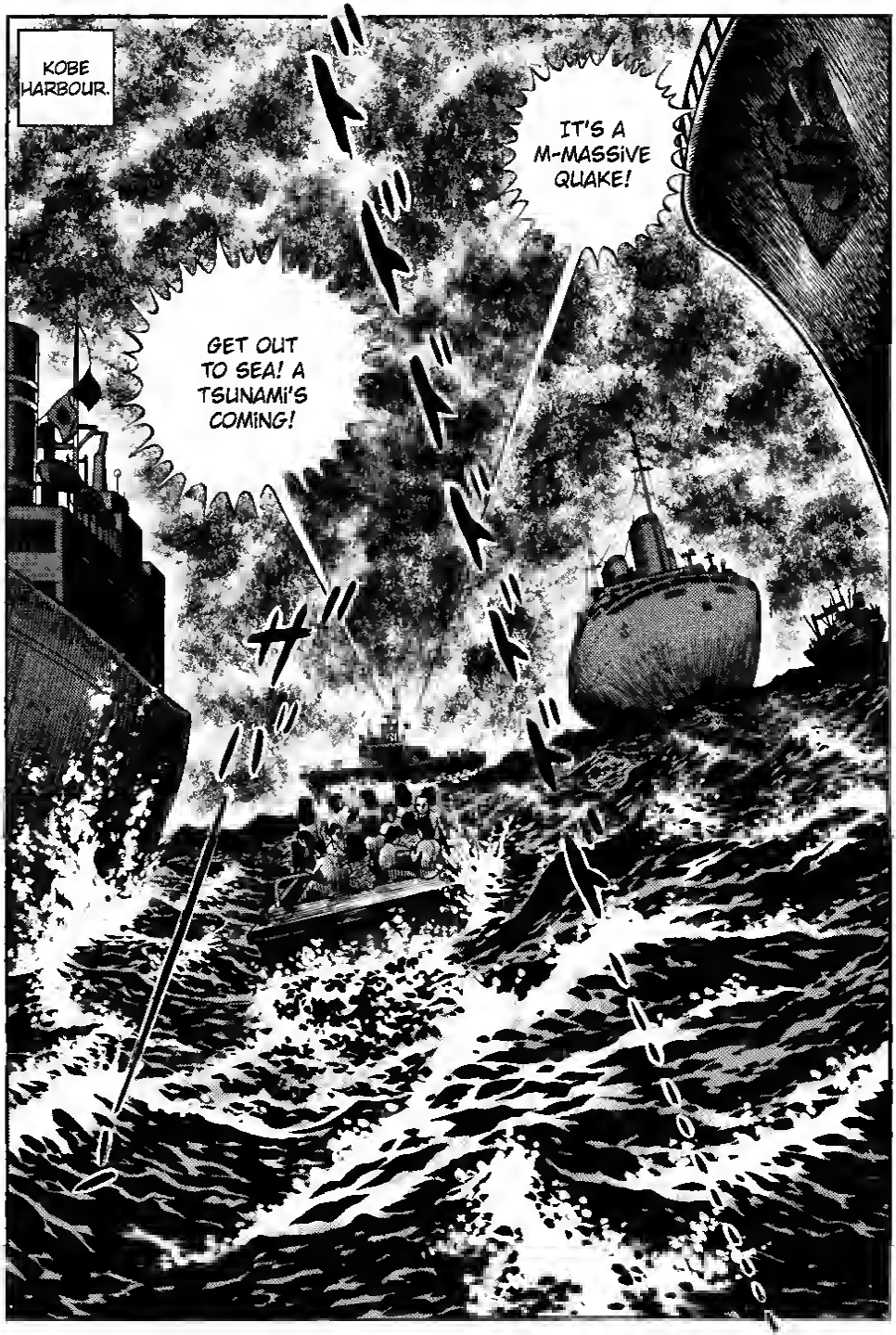
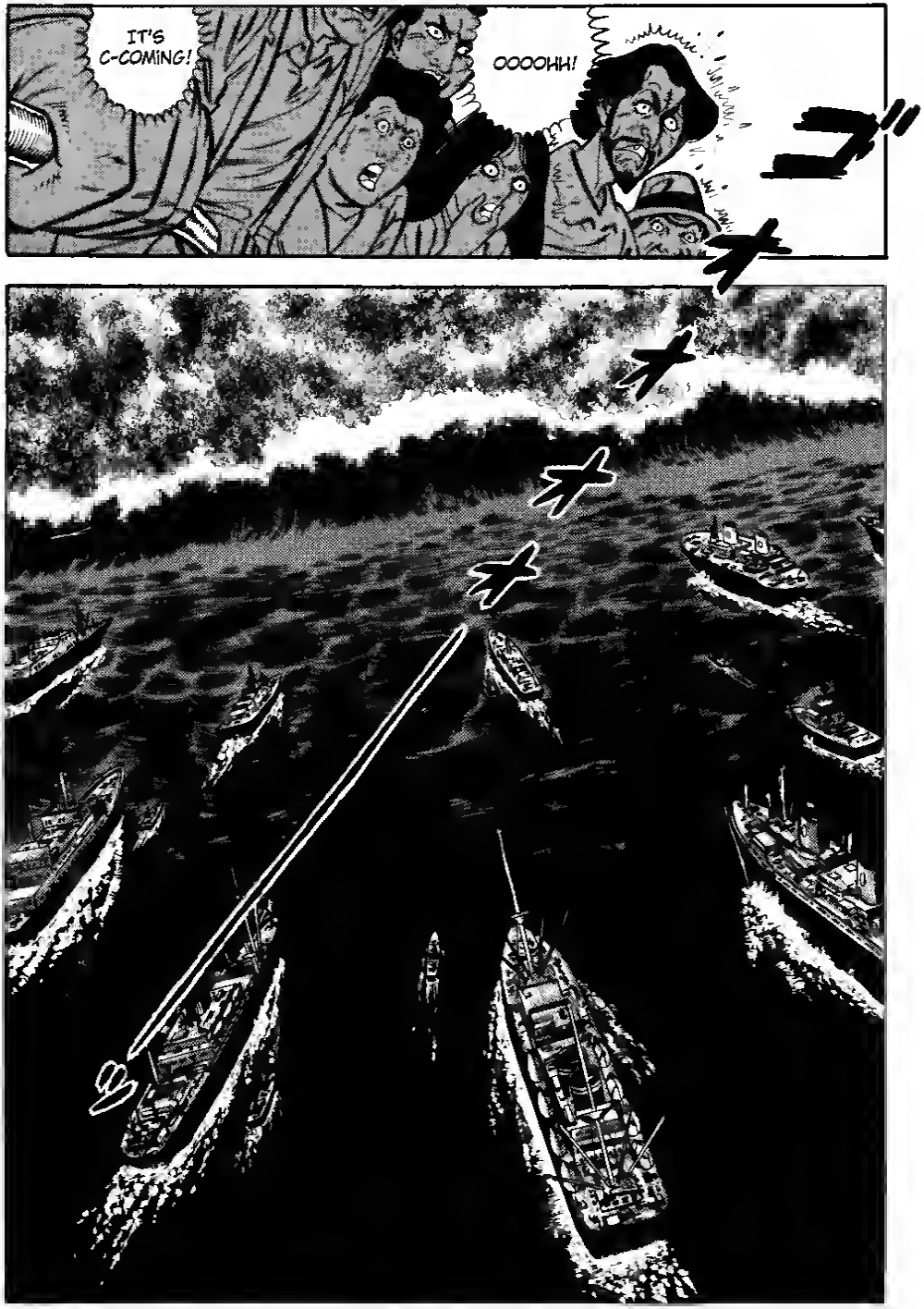
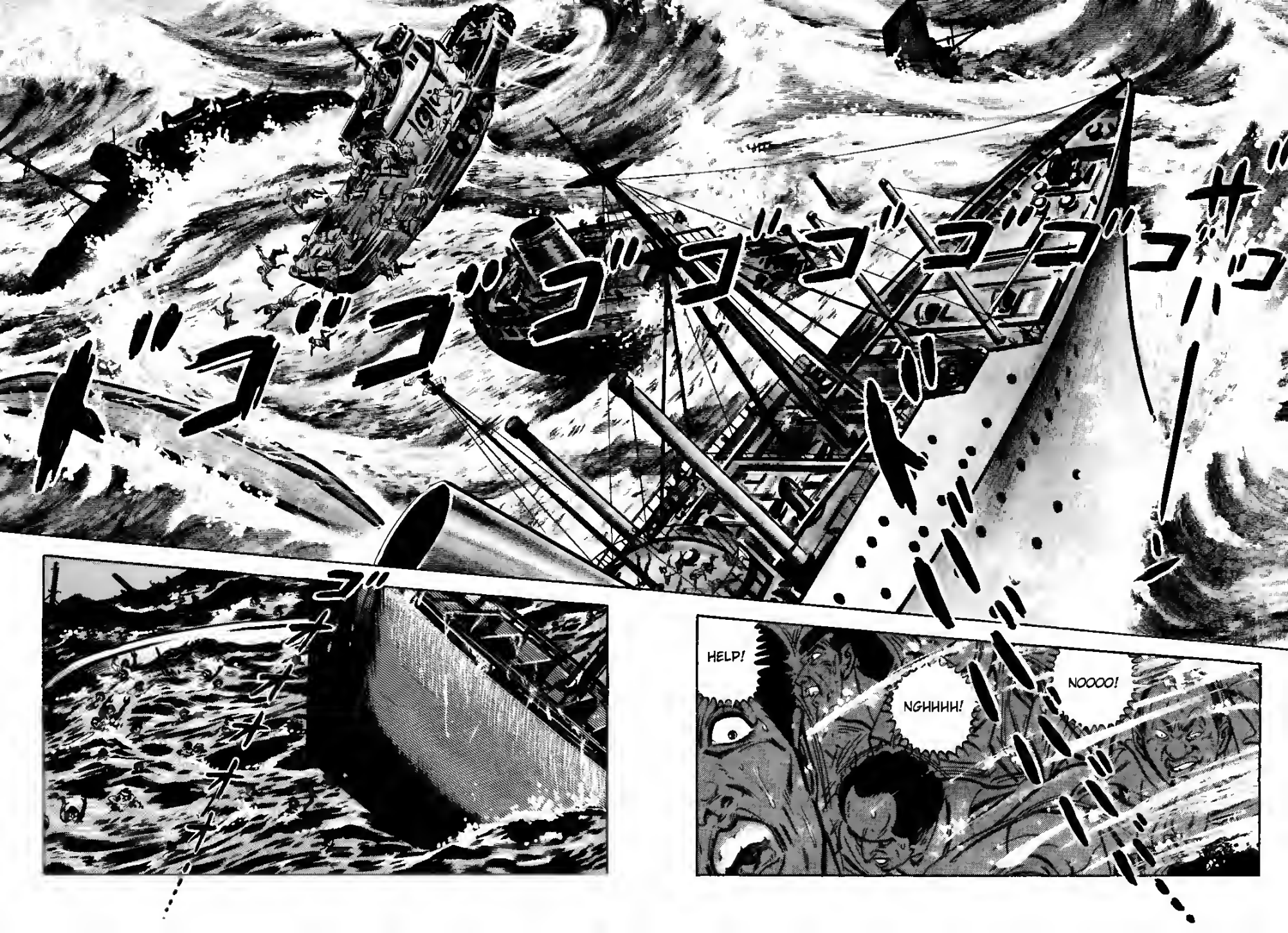
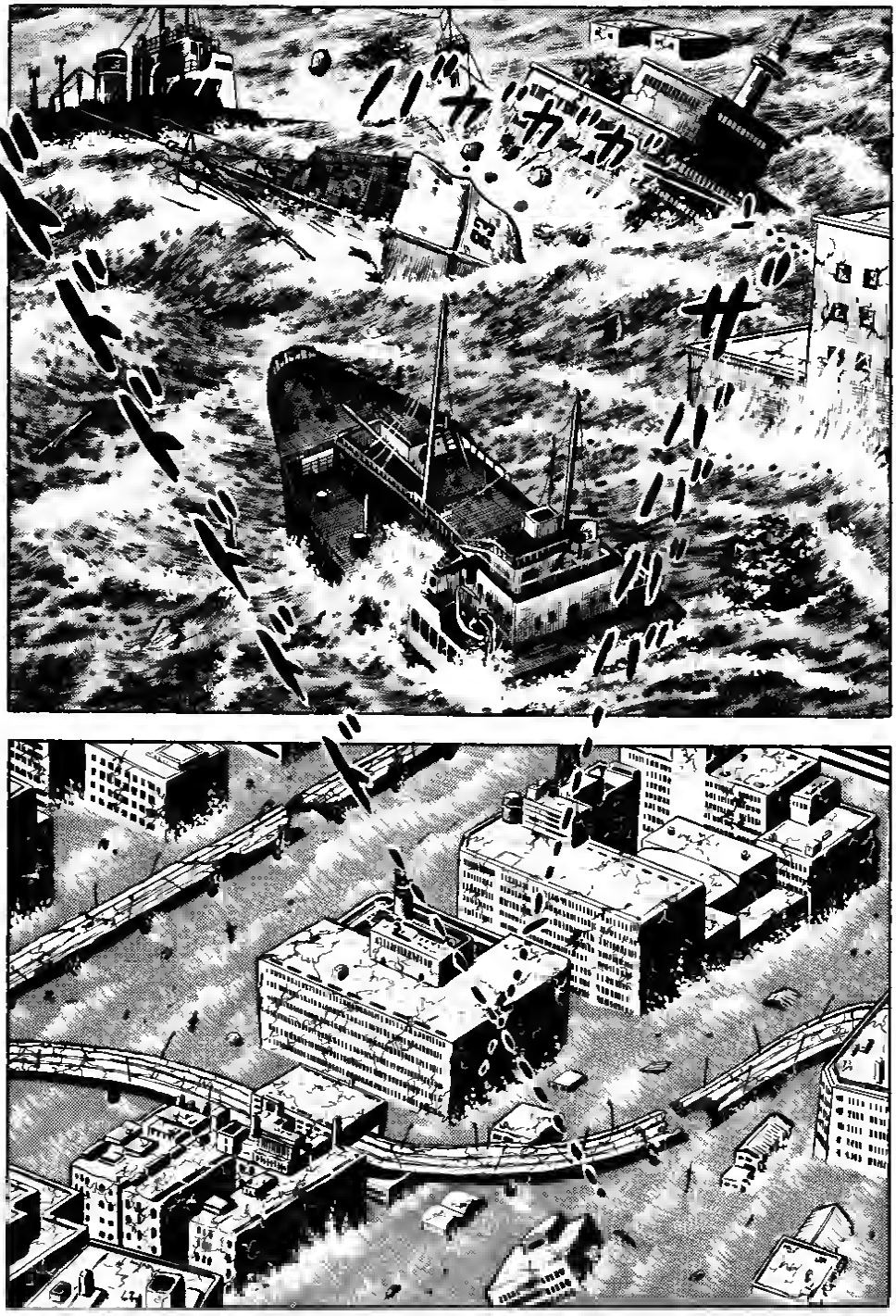

KOBE HARBOUR.
IT'S A M-MASSIVE QUAKE!
GET OUT TO SEA! A TSUNAMI'S COMING!


IT'S C-COMING!
OOOOHH!


HELP!
NGHHHH!
NOOOO!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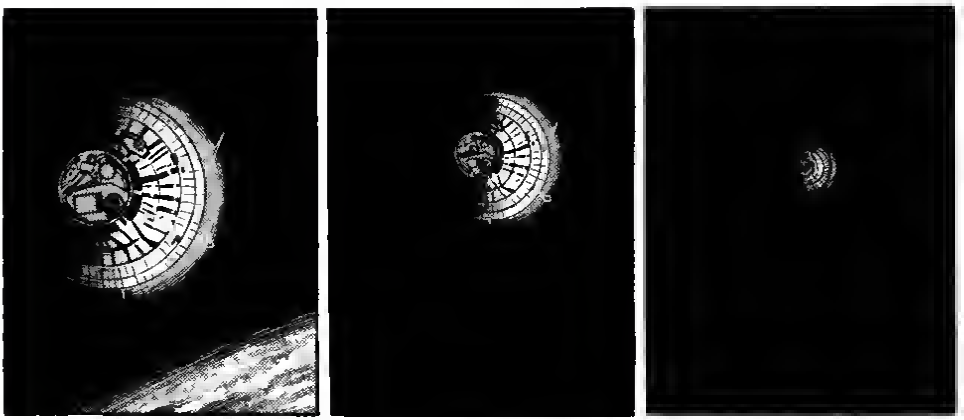
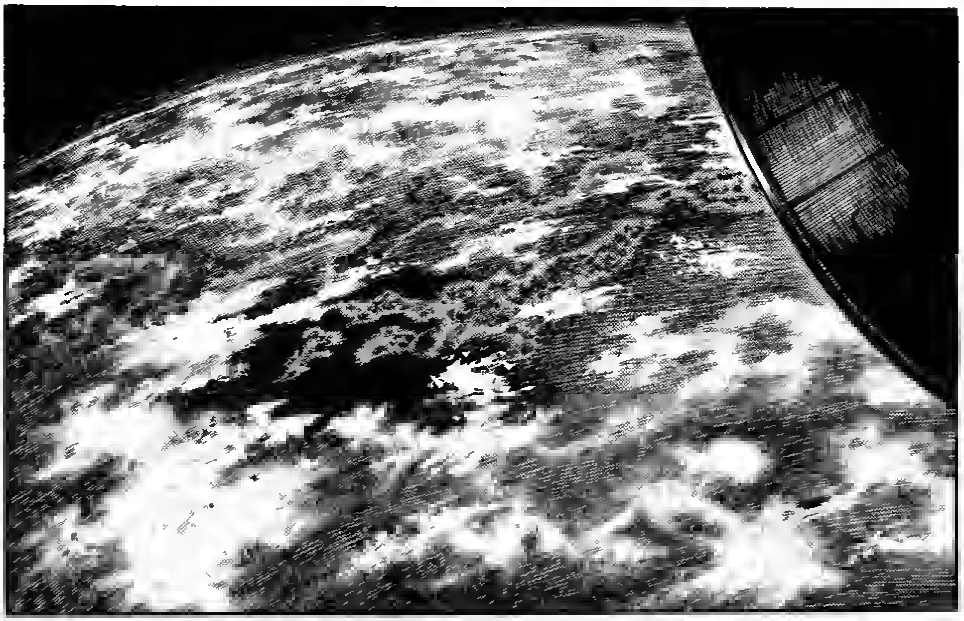
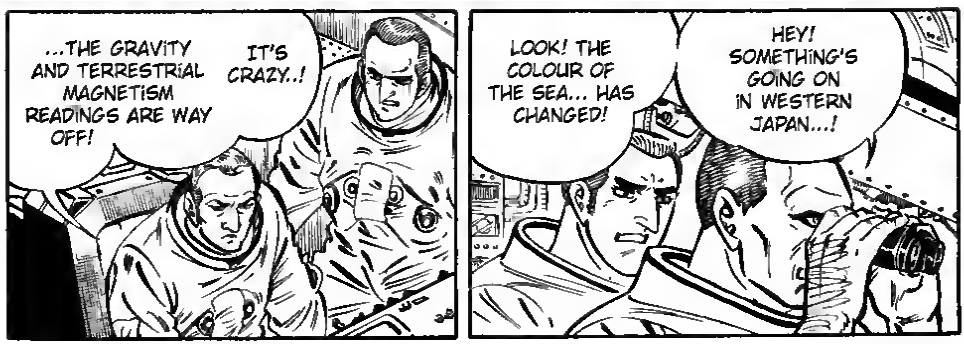
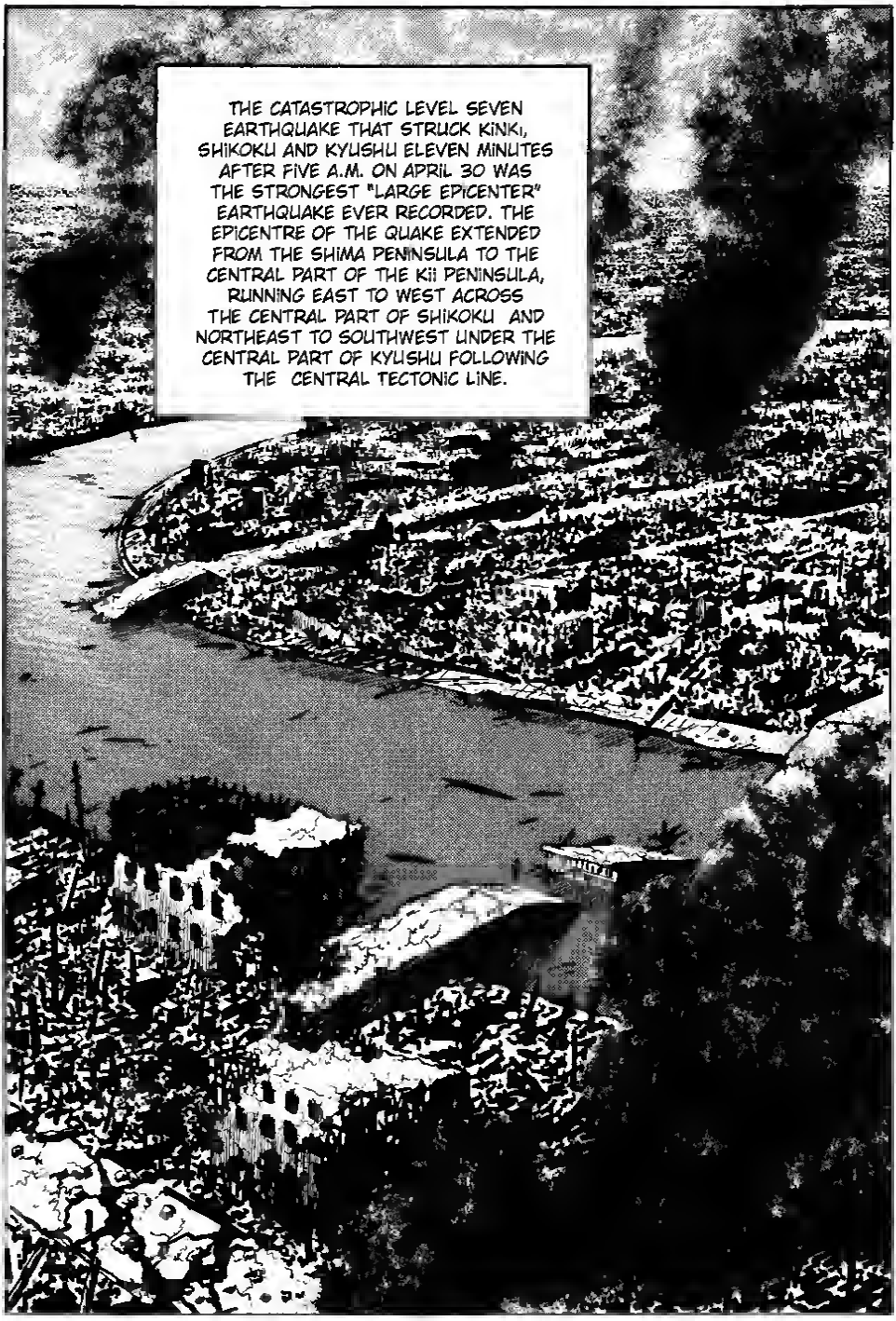
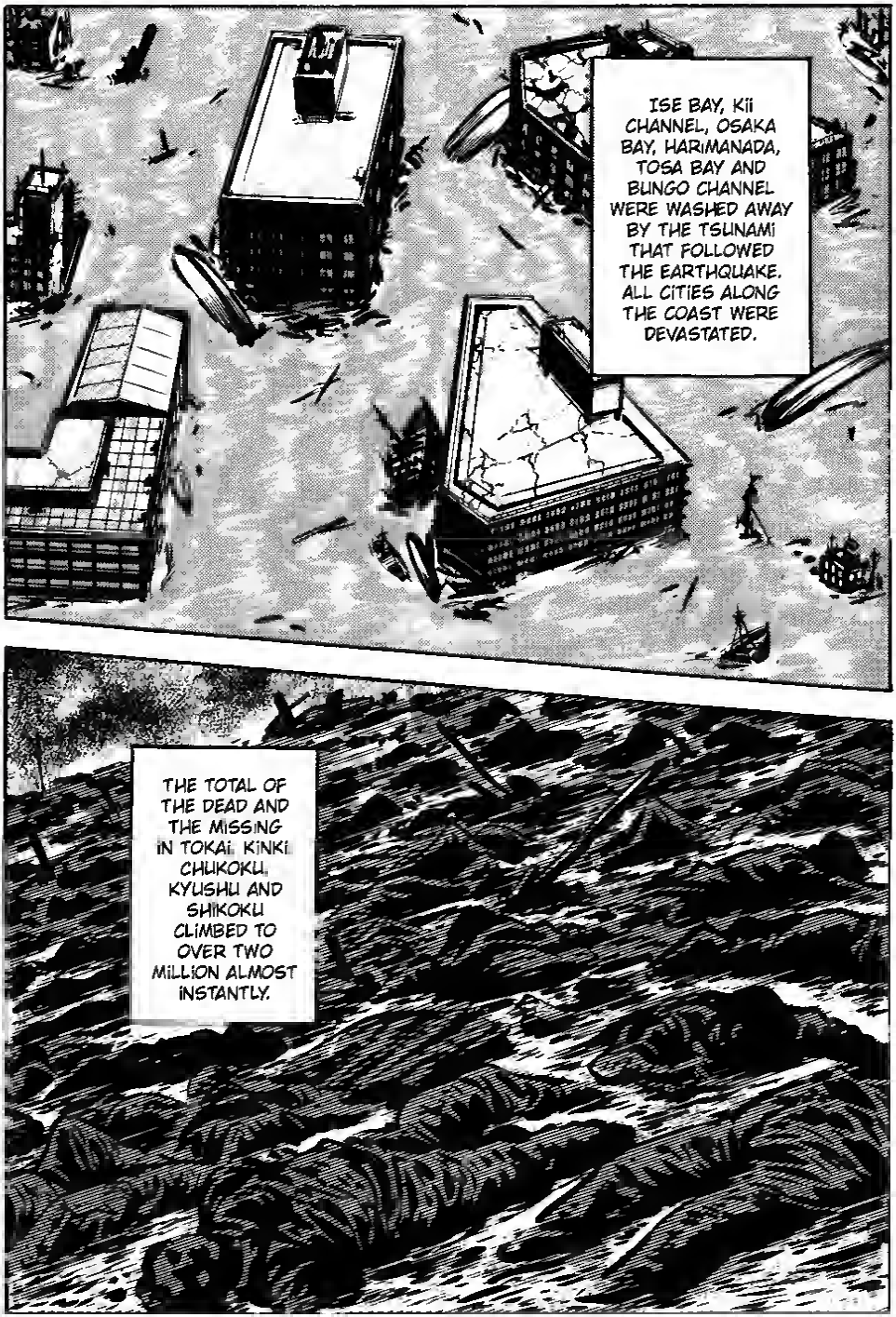





...THE GRAVITY AND TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM READINGS ARE WAY OFF!
IT'S CRAZY..!
LOOK! THE COLOUR OF THE SEA... HAS CHANGED!
HEY! SOMETHING'S GOING ON IN WESTERN JAPAN...!

JAPAN... IS BREAKING UP!
IT'S HAP-PENED!
LOOK... THE SOUTHERN PART OF JAPAN IS CLEARLY CHANGING SHAPE!
...
...JAPAN IS GOING DOWN...
LET THEM KNOW THAT...
CALL THE STATION, PAT...


THE CATASTROPHIC LEVEL SEVEN EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK KINKI, SHIKOKU AND KYUSHU ELEVEN MINUTES AFTER FIVE A.M. ON APRIL 30 WAS THE STRONGEST "LARGE EPICENTER" EARTHQUAKE EVER RECORDED. THE EPICENTRE OF THE QUAKE EXTENDED FROM THE SHIMA PENINSULA TO THE CENTRAL PART OF THE KII PENINSULA, RUNNING EAST TO WEST ACROSS THE CENTRAL PART OF SHIKOKU AND NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST UNDER THE CENTRAL PART OF KYUSHU FOLLOWING THE CENTRAL TECTONIC LINE.


ISE BAY, KII CHANNEL, OSAKA BAY, HARIMANADA, TOSA BAY AND BUNGO CHANNEL WERE WASHED AWAY BY THE TSUNAMI THAT FOLLOWED THE EARTHQUAKE. ALL CITIES ALONG THE COAST WERE DEVASTATED.
THE TOTAL OF THE DEAD AND THE MISSING IN TOKAI, KINKI, CHUKOKU, KYUSHU AND SHIKOKU CLIMBED TO OVER TWO MILLION ALMOST INSTANTLY.

...ACCORDING TO THE LAST REPORT FROM THE SHIONOMISAKI OBSERVATION CENTRE... THE SOUTHERN PART OF SHIKOKU AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE KII PENINSULA ARE SINKING...
...THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE KISHU AND THE SHIKOKU LAND MASSES HAVE SLIPPED ALONG THIS FAULT THREE METRES TO THE SOUTH AND SEVERAL DOZEN METRES TO THE EAST...
THE BANKS OF THE KINO AND THE YOSHINO RIVERS HAVE MOVED SEVERAL DOZEN METRES APART ALONG AN AREA OF A FEW HUNDREDS KM.
... AT A RATE OF ONE TO TWO METRES AN HOUR...
PLAN D HEAD-QUAR-TERS.
...THEIR LAST MESSAGE READ: "THE SEA HAS NOW REACHED THE CENTRE..."
TELL ME... DID THEY... MAKE IT?
NAKATA
IT'S STARTED.
YUKINAGA

IT'S ALL OVER!
...WESTERN JAPAN HAS STARTED GOING UNDER.
カ"
...IT STARTED A LONG TIME AGO...
...THE SINKING DIDN'T JUST START NOW...
THE WATER HAS RISEN ALL THE WAY TO NACHI FALLS!
OWASE, KUMANO, SHINGU, SHINOMISAKI ARE COMPLETELY UNDER THE SEA.
I, FOR ONE, AM NOT SURE IF I CAN TRUST YOUR PREDICTIONS ANYMORE...
...OH. YEAH? WHERE DO YOU FIND THE CONFIDENCE TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
...WE HAVE AT LEAST FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS BEFORE JAPAN IS COMPLETELY UNDER THE WATER.
THERE'S STILL TIME...
...UNFORTUNATELY WE COULD NOT BE VERY PRECISE ABOUT THE TIMING...
WE DID WARN ABOUT AN EARTHQUAKE ALONG THE CENTRAL TECTONIC LINE...
YOU HADN'T EVEN FORESEEN THE QUAKE THAT BROKE WESTERN JAPAN IN TWO!

CHANGING THE SUBJECT, THE EVACUATION PLAN DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE CHANGES UNDER WAY... THE COMMITTEE IS FRANTICALLY EVACUATING PEOPLE FROM EVERY PLACE THEY CAN SEND THEM OFF FROM...
... BUT DUE TO A PARTIAL BREAKDOWN OF THE OBSERVATION NETWORK TWO DAYS AGO, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO DETECT THE SUDDEN CHANGE...
WE'D SAID BETWEEN THREE DAYS TO A WEEK...
IT'S KATAOKA FROM SURVEY PLANE P6, SIR...
MORE COULD BE DONE IF YOU PEOPLE SENT US MORE ACCURATE REPORTS!
IT'S WAY TOO LATE FOR THAT!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? THAT WE SHOULD CHANGE THE EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION PLANS NOW?
W-WHAT...?!
NAKATA WITH THE D-1 TEAM... GO AHEAD...

...COME ON, TELL US WHAT HE SAID!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
...
...ONLY THE STATION AND A FEW TALL BUILDINGS ARE STILL ABOVE THE WATERS... THE WRECKAGE FROM THE TSUNAMI WAS TERRIBLE... THE FEW HOUSES STILL STANDING ARE FLOODED UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR...
...KOCHI CITY IS ALMOST COMPLETELY UNDER THE SEA...
...WHAT?! ASHIZURI CAPE IS COMPLETELY SUBMERGED!?
PLEASE, EXCUSE ME.
I THINK... I'M GOING TO BE SICK...
WHAT'S WRONG, NINOMIYA? NOT FEELING WELL?

...HE LOOKED AS IF... HE'D JUST HEARD HIS PARENTS, HIS BROTHER AND HIS SISTER CRY FROM UNDER THE SEA...
HE'S FROM KOCHI...
...P6 HERE... YES, WE DID.... I'M SENDING YOU AERIAL IMAGES OF OSAKA...
DID YOU LOWER THE OBSERVATION BUOY ONTO THE SEA? OVER...
D-1 HERE... YOU HEAR ME, P6? SEND US SOME IMAGES OF THE AREA...
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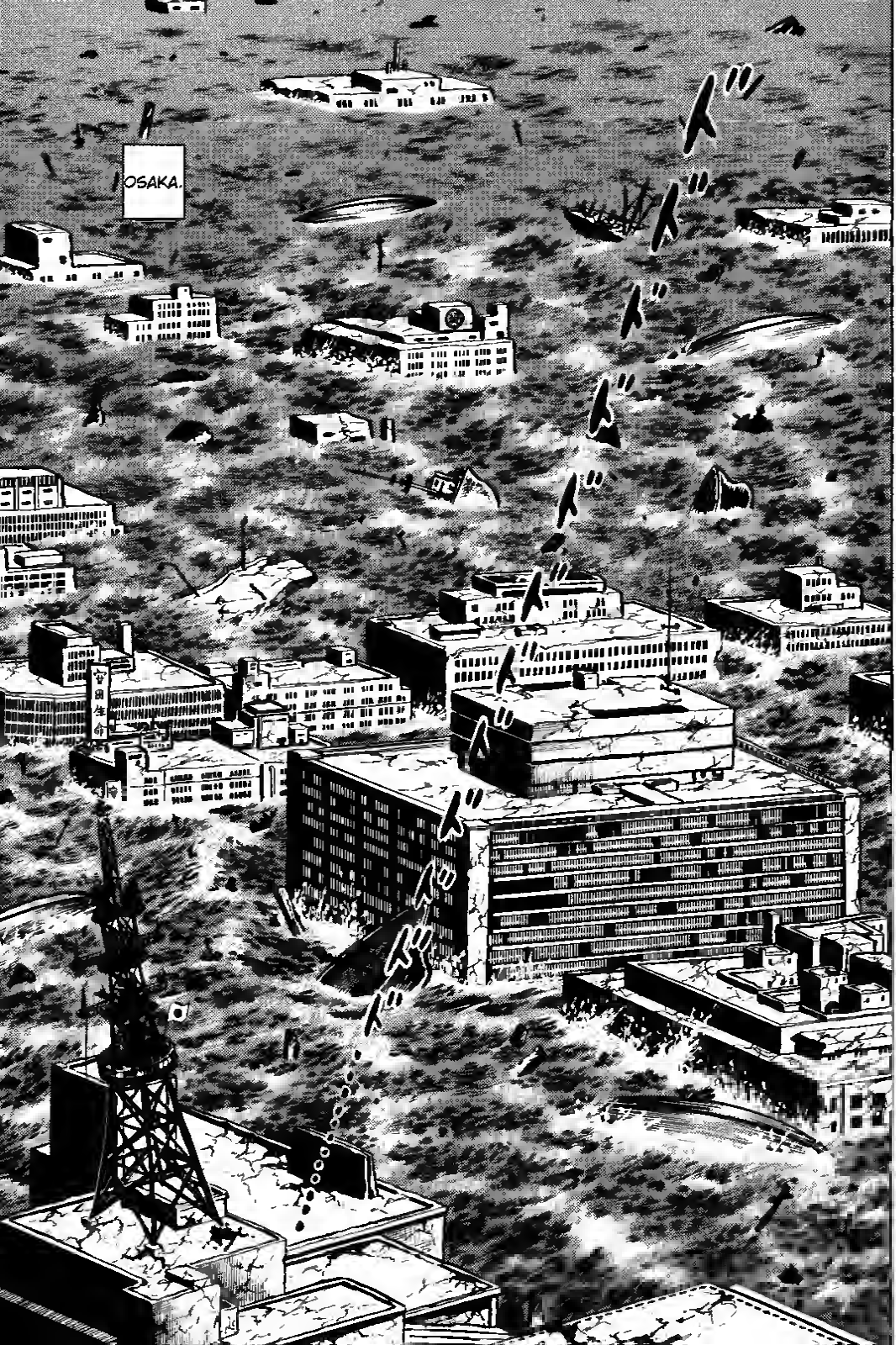
OSAKA.
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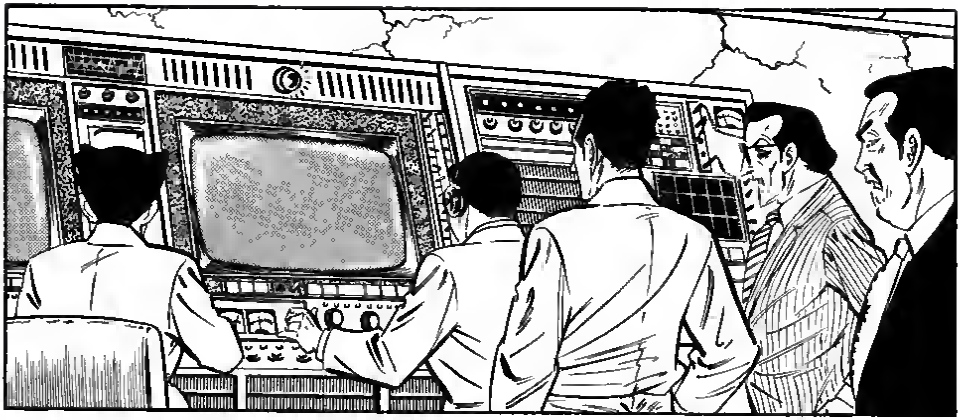
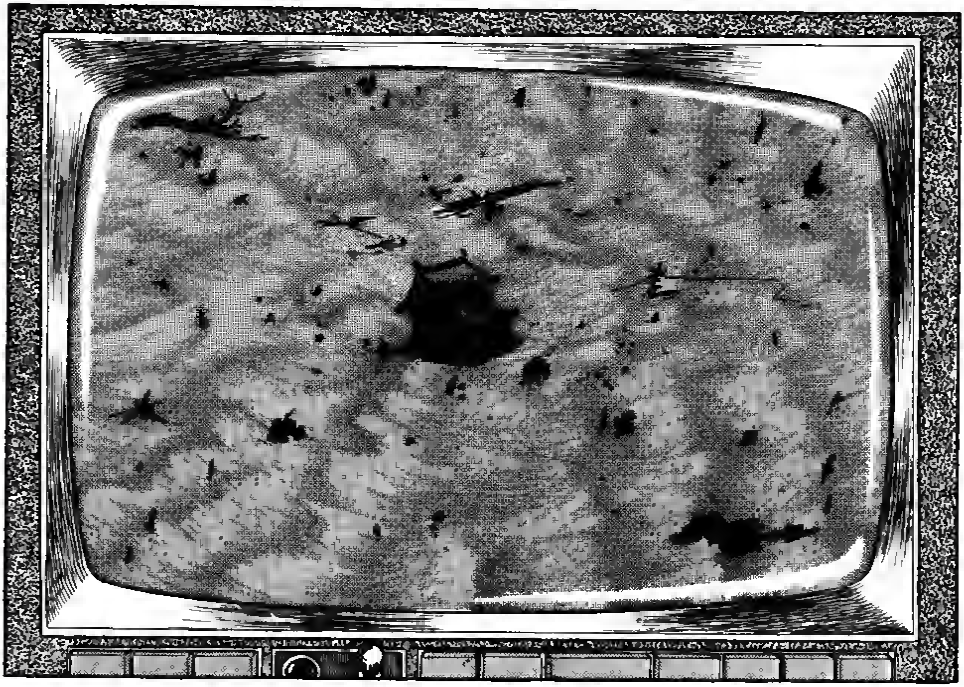
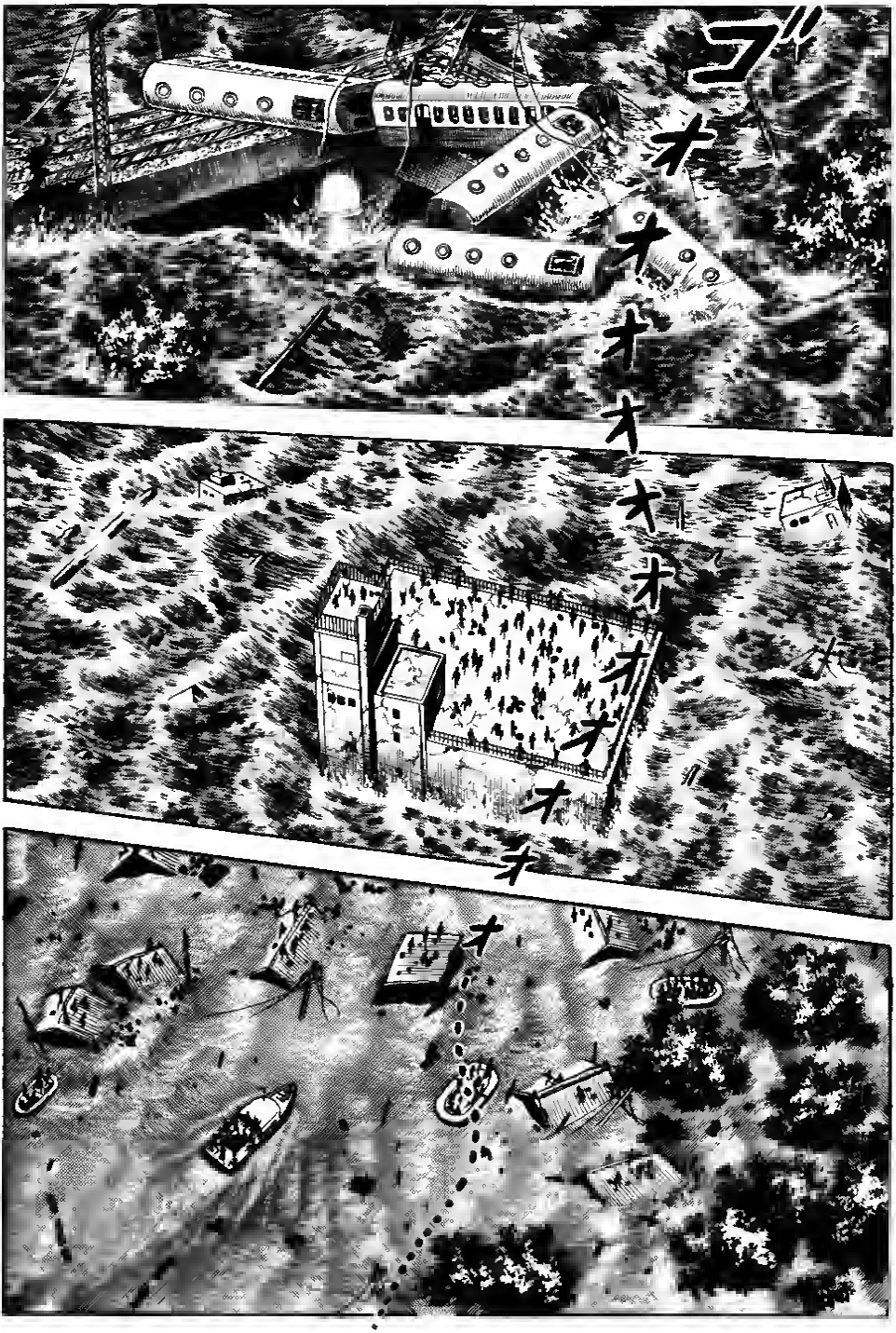
ROG-ER!
TRY FLYING HIGHER.
...THEY'RE NOT VERY CLEAR.

...HOW'S THE QUALITY OF THE IMAGES, D-1?
...WE'RE FLYING OVER OSAKA NOW...
D6 HERE...





...THAT'S... OSAKA ...?
T-THAT...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...I'VE JUST HEARD FROM ITAMI'S CONTROL TOWER...
...THE GROUND STARTED SINKING RAPIDLY SOON AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE... IT'S SINKING AS WE SPEAK...
...RUNWAY B AT ITAMI AIRPORT HAS BEEN PARTIALLY DAMAGED... RUNWAY A IS ALSO DAMAGED AND UNDER WATER... THEY ARE PROCEEDING WITH EMERGENCY
REPAIRS...

UHM... THEN WE MUST INCREASE THE PACE OF THE EVACUATION DRASTICALLY.
...UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE ONLY TWO PLANES IN CONDITION TO TAKE OFF...
...A 2500 M LIMITED STRETCH OF RUNWAY B SHOULD BE READY FOR USE VERY SOON...
...A MESSAGE FROM KINKI'S EVACUATION PLANNING HQ...
...THE WATER IS FLOWING THROUGH THE KAWACHI PLAIN IN THE DIRECTION OF DAITO AND MORIGUCHI... IT BROKE THE YODO RIVER'S EMBANKMENTS... AND IT'S ABOUT TO REACH...
...MIYAKOJIMA, JOTO AND HIGASHINARI ARE STILL SINKING...
...THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS IN OSAKA CITY... KONOHANA, THE HARBOUR AREA, TAISHO, FUKUSHIMA, NISHI, NANIWA AND NISHINARI... ARE COMPLETELY UNDERWATER...

WHETHER STOL (SHORT TAKE OFF AND LANDING) AIRCRAFT OR LARGE HELICOPTERS COULD LAND ON THE EXPO GROUNDS.
GET IN TOUCH WITH D-3 AND ASK THEIR OPINION...
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE THE EVACUATION POINT CLOSER TO SENRI MOUNTAIN...
...THE IKOMA MOUNTAINS...
...SEE WHAT THEY THINK AND ASK THEM TO CLEAR IT WITH THE COMMITTEE...
NO, WAIT... COULDN'T STOL PLANES LAND ON SAIGOKU KAIDO ROAD?
D-3... PLEASE ANSWER, D-3!
...CONSIDERING THE DAMAGE AT ITAMI AIRPORT...
I WONDER HOW BADLY D-3 WAS AFFECTED BY THE QUAKE...
DO YOU COPY ME, D-3...?
D-1 TO D-3...
... AND SHORTWAVE NETWORKS ARE DOWN. THE CHANGE IN THE EARTH'S CRUST MUST HAVE AFFECTED THE IONOSPHERE!
NO... BOTH MICROWAVE...
NO ANSWER?

...A MEDIUM-SIZE QUAKE IN THE TOKAI REGION...IN THE CHUBU REGION THE GROUND IS RISING SLIGHTLY AROUND NORIKURA... AND SO IS THE TEMPER-ATURE.
HOW'S THE SITUATION EVERYWHERE ELSE?
YES, SIR.
HAVE THE HELICOPTER CALL THEM!
...IT COULD HAPPEN WITHIN 24 HOURS...
...THE DANGER OF AN ERUPTION IN NORIKURA AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS MORNING'S EARTHQUAKE ALONG THE CENTRAL TECTONIC LINE IS VERY REAL...
...NO... IT COULD BE MUCH EARLIER!

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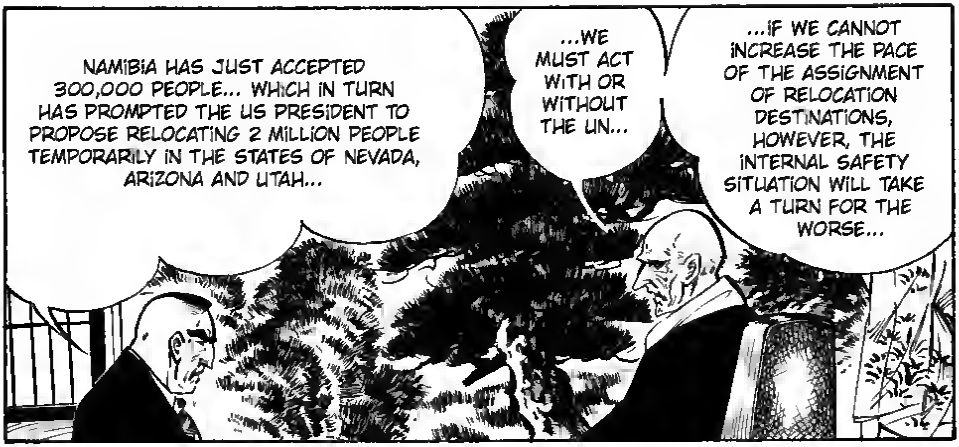
I-IT'S... COMING!

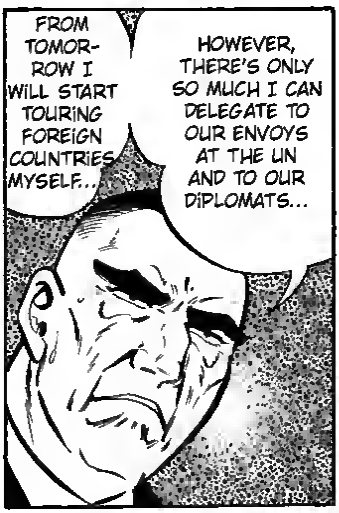
ドドド

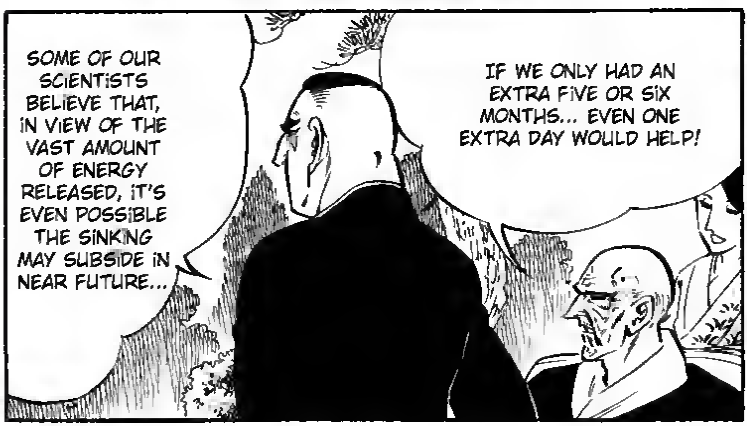
YAHHH!
WAHHHHH!
ドゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

YES, HE'S HERE, JUST A MOMENT...
KUNI-EDA
PRIME MINISTER
HANAE
WATARI
...NORIKURA...?
HE SAYS THAT NORIKURA, YAKE AND FUDO STARTED ERUPTING AT 3.45 P.M.....
IT'S YUKINAGA FROM D-1.
YES, IT'S THE NUMBER OF EVACUEES FOR APRIL
...8 MILLION IN THE LAST MONTH...?
YOU WERE SAYING...
IF WE COULD ONLY HAVE ANOTHER FIVE OR SIX MONTHS...


NAMIBIA HAS JUST ACCEPTED 300,000 PEOPLE... WHICH IN TURN HAS PROMPTED THE US PRESIDENT TO PROPOSE RELOCATING 2 MILLION PEOPLE TEMPORARILY IN THE STATES OF NEVADA, ARIZONA AND UTAH...
...WE MUST ACT WITH OR WITHOUT THE UN...
...IF WE CANNOT INCREASE THE PACE OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF RELOCATION DESTINATIONS, HOWEVER, THE INTERNAL SAFETY SITUATION WILL TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE...

AT THIS POINT, ALL WE CAN DO IS TO APPEAL TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF WORLD.
...AND PERSONALLY ASK THEIR LEADERS AND THEIR PEOPLE TO ACCEPT 100,000 PEOPLE. IF THEY REFUSE I'LL ASK THEM FOR 10,000... IF THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE I'LL ASK THEM FOR 1000... 100... EVEN ONE PERSON!


FROM TOMOR-ROW I WILL START TOURING FOREIGN COUNTRIES MYSELF...
HOWEVER, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN DELEGATE TO OUR ENVOYS AT THE UN AND TO OUR DIPLOMATS...


SOME OF OUR SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT, IN VIEW OF THE VAST AMOUNT OF ENERGY RELEASED, IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE THE SINKING MAY SUBSIDE IN NEAR FUTURE...
IF WE ONLY HAD AN EXTRA FIVE OR SIX MONTHS... EVEN ONE EXTRA DAY WOULD HELP!

I ADMIRE YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS...

...
THE RATE OF SINKING IS GETTING FASTER, RIGHT?
D-1?
HELLO? ...
チーン
...IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS MAY PICK UP EVEN MORE SPEED...
THEY'RE GOING OVER THEIR CALCULATIONS ONE MORE TIME JUST IN CASE BUT...

BOSO PENIN-SULA.

SAN-
RIKU
COAST.

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MIURA PENIN-SULA
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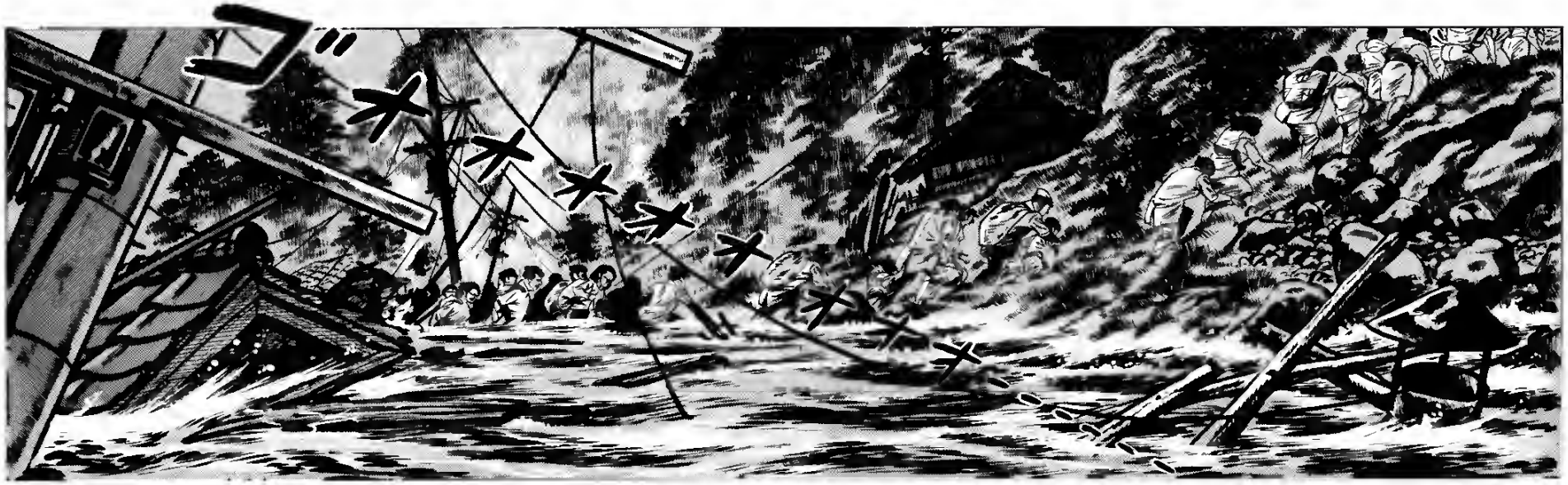

AURG-HHHH!

WWWAAAH!

HURRY!
...THIS WAY!
ドドドドド

OH!
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COME AND HELP US!
A... A HELICOPTER!
...WE'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND!
I THOUGHT EVERYBODY HAD LEFT THIS AREA!
LOOK...! ...PEOPLE!
HELP US!
HEYYY!

UH?!
ARE YOU GOING TO LET US SINK TOO?
LET US ON THE COPTER! PLEASE!
WE'RE ASKING THE RESCUE CENTRE TO SEND A LARGER HELICOPTER!
WAIT A FEW MINUTES!
THERE'S NO TIME!
...W-WAIT?

...OR ELSE...
STOP IT!
HEY!
WAAAH!
STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!
ズキュン
YAAWW-WHHHH!
HELP US!
HELP US!

ズ"
ガ"
ガ"
ガ"
UHNNN!
GRAB HIM!
...STOP IT!
9"
DAMN FOOLS!

OOOMPH!
...BASTARD!
WHO WANTS TO DIE FIRST?
COME ON!
ONO-DERA
CALM DOWN, PEOPLE!
EASY!

W-WHO... ARE YOU?
...
WE WERE ABOUT TO BUT...
NOT ANYMORE... THE RADIO'S BROKEN.
CAN YOU CALL A RESCUE COPTER?
I'M ONODERA, WITH D-1
COME ON! FOLLOW ME, EVERYONE.

TRUST ME.
WILL WE BE OKAY...?
...I KNOW A ROUTE THAT WILL TAKE US ROUND MT. ENKAI TO TOTSUKA...
HAYAMA, ZUSHI, KAMAKURA... ARE UNDERWATER BUT...
ズズズズズ……
THE WHOLE COUNTRY HAS CHANGED BEYOND RECOGNITION...
MAPS ARE USELESS NOW...
I HAVE A MAP...
ゴオオオ

D1 HQ
...AN EXPLOSION FROM MT. TAKATSUMA'S DIRECTION... SMOKE RISING FROM THE WESTERN SLOPE...
...A NEW REPORT IN FROM NAGANO...

LATERAL MOVEMENT IS ALREADY OVER 20 M...
SO... IT'S ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ITOIGAWA'S FOSSA MAGNA...
...MUCH FASTER THAN WE EXPECTED...
FIRST NORIKURA... NOW TAKATSUMA...
NAKATA!
ナナ"
...M. IWATE AND M. KOMA... HAVE STARTED TO ERUPT...
IN MORIOKA...
...IT SEEMS THE END WILL BE IN AUGUST...
UHM... IT LOOKS LIKE WE WERE WRONG BY ABOUT A MONTH...
WHAT ABOUT OUR CALCULATIONS...?
...WE CANNOT EMBARK PEOPLE FROM THE INLAND SEA ANYMORE BECAUSE OF THE EFFECTS OF THE TSUNAMI AND THE SINKING...
THE BLOW TO THE KINKI REGION WAS MUCH TOO STRONG...
WE ALREADY HAVE TOO MANY VICTIMS!
MORE TO THE POINT... HOW'S THE EVACUATION PLAN PROCEEDING?

WHAT...? THE SOVIET FLEET?
IN TWO DAYS TRANSPORT SHIPS OF THE SOVIET FLEET WILL DOCK AT MAIZURU AND TSURIGA'S HARBOURS.
...THE EVACUATION POINT FOR THE KINKI AND CHUGOKU REGION HAS BEEN MOVED TO MAIZURU AND TSURUGA ON THE WESTERN COAST WHICH SUFFERED COMPARATIVELY LITTLE DAMAGE.
AMERICA HAS INFORMED US THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE SEVENTH FLEET ALREADY IN THE AREA, THEIR WHOLE PACIFIC FLLET IS HEADING TO JAPAN TO ASSIST WITH RESCUE OPERATIONS.
S-SERIOUSLY?
WE'VE ALSO BEEN NOTIFIED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMAND OF CHINA'S PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IS SENDING ALL ITS SHIPS TO KYUSHU AND OKINAWA.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO REJOICE...
THE ODDS OF A SUCCESSFUL END OF THE EVACUATION ARE SUDDENLY UP...
...THOUGH NO ONE BELIEVED IT WOULD REALLY HAPPEN.
ONCE JAPAN STARTED SINKING EVERYONE HAS BEEN COMING TO OUR RESCUE...

...WILL THE EVACUATION EFFORT SURVIVE THE RAIN AND THE TYPHOONS?
...AND SOON AFTER THAT TYPHOON SEASON WILL START.
THIS YEAR IT'S EXPECTED TO START EARLY. AND THEY'VE FORECAST MORE PRECIPITATION THAN IN THE PAST YEARS...
DON'T FORGET THAT THE RAINY SEASON IS COMING...
AND ONCE WE CANNOT COUNT ON ACCURATE DATA ANYMORE... ANY MINOR QUAKE COULD CATCH US UNAWARES...
MANY OF THE AUTOMATED OBSERVATION DEVICES WE'VE SET ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, HAVE ALREADY STARTED BREAKING DOWN OR MALFUNCTIONING...
SOON THE ONLY TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL WILL BE OUR INTUITION AND IMAGINATION.
WE'VE ALREADY REACHED A STAGE WHERE WE CANNOT APPLY OUR GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL NOTIONS ANYMORE.
INTUITION AND IMAGINATION... THAT REMINDS ME OF PROFESSOR TADORO...

AN ANOMALY ON THE JAPAN TRENCH'S OCEAN FLOOR...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE CAN SAY GOODBYE TO OUR INSTRUMENTS...
THE BOTTOM CAVED IN?!
OH! THE AUTOMATED RECORDING DEVICE ON THE TRENCH FLOOR HAS STOPPED SENDING DATA!
...THE DEPRESSION SEEMS TO BECOME VERY INTENSE...
IT'S COMING!
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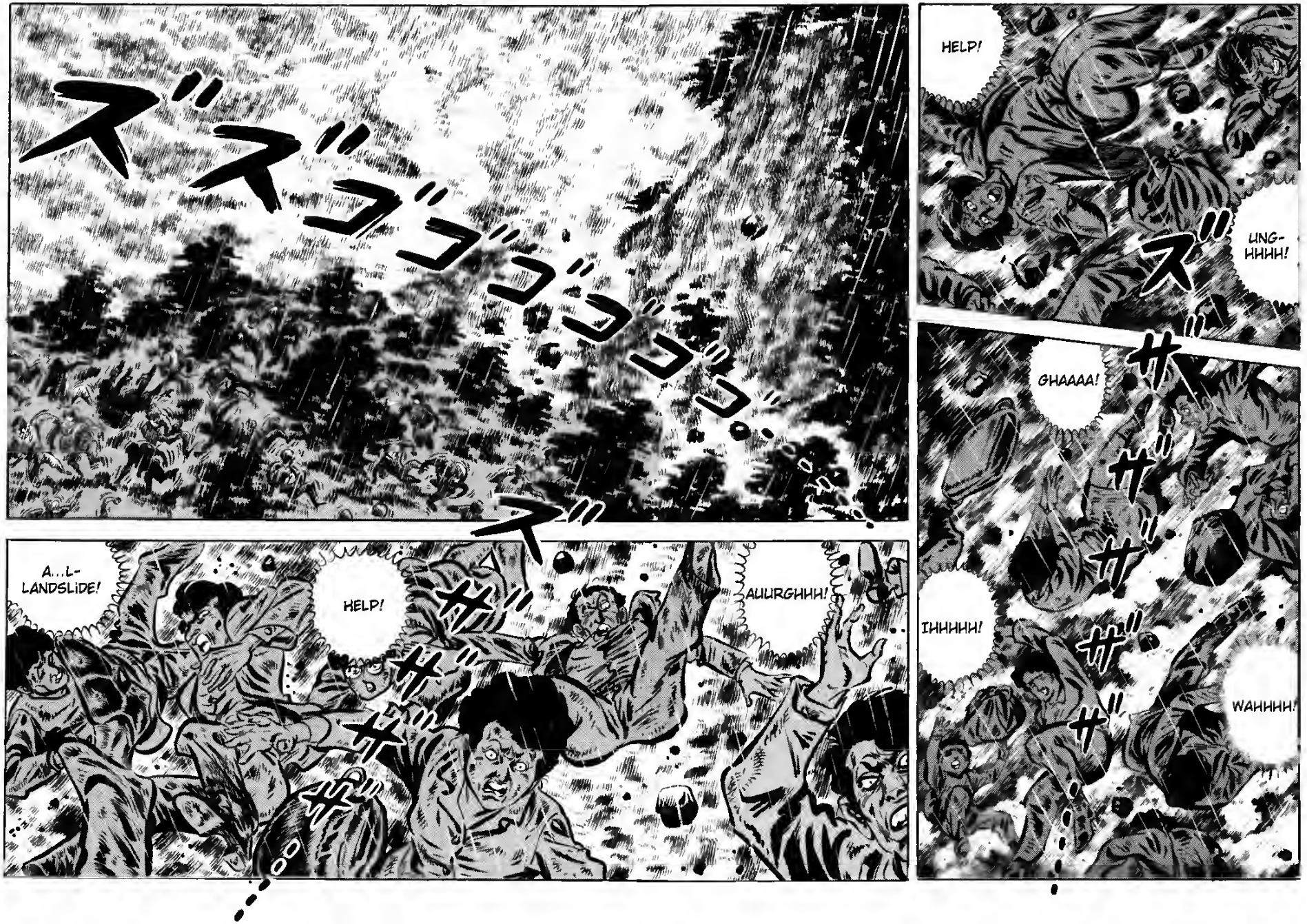
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ズ
A...L-LANDSLIDE!
HELP!
AUURGHHH!
ザ
HELP!
UNG-HHHH!
ズ
GHAAAA!
IHHHHH!
WAHHHH!

S-SOMEBODY...
...H-HELP US!

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ズズズズズ……

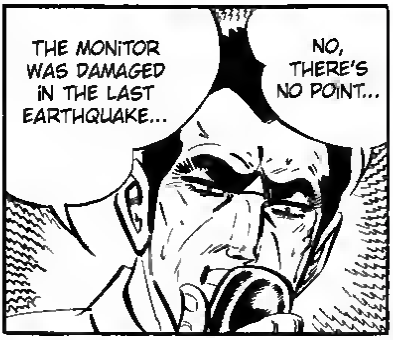
D-1 HEAD QUARTERS
YUKINAGA!
....PHEWW

IS EVERYONE OKAY?
DAMN... THAT WAS STRONG.
ARE YOU OKAY, YUKINAGA?
YEAH ...
TAKE HIM TO THE INFIRMARY... HAVE A DOCTOR LOOK AT IT.
....BROKEN?
PROFESSOR YUKINAGA! TAKEDA'S ARM IS...
NGHHH...
ビッビビビ

WHAT'S THE MATTER, D8?
D-1 HERE, NAKATA SPEAKING...
...CAN YOU READ ME, D-1? OVER...
...BZZZZ.... D8 HERE...

WE'RE SENDING YOU SOME IMAGES...
...I SAID "SUPPOSED" BECAUSE... CHOSHI'S GONE. THERE'S NOTHING BUT SEA...
...WE'RE FOLLOWING THE COAST TOWARDS CHIBA... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FLYING OVER CHOSHI NOW...

...THE BOSO PENINSULA HAS BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE MAINLAND ALONG THE CHIBA CITY-TOGANE AXIS BY A VAST BODY OF WATER!
I REALLY WISH... YOU PEOPLE COULD SEE THIS, D-1!


THE MONITOR WAS DAMAGED IN THE LAST EARTHQUAKE...
NO, THERE'S NO POINT...

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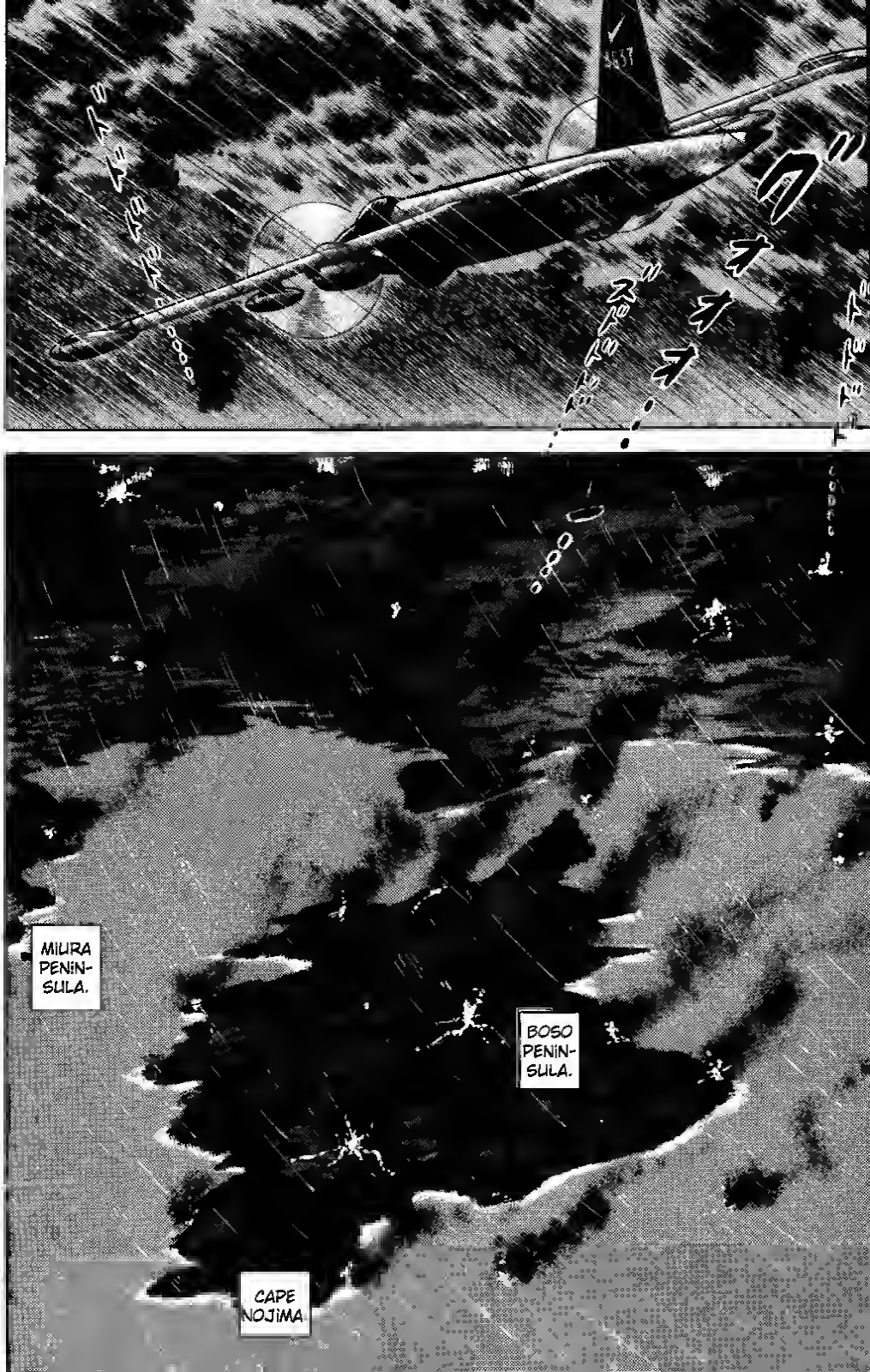
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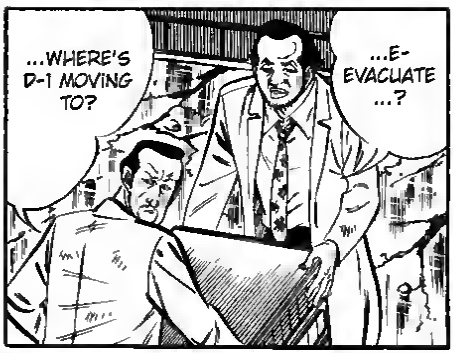
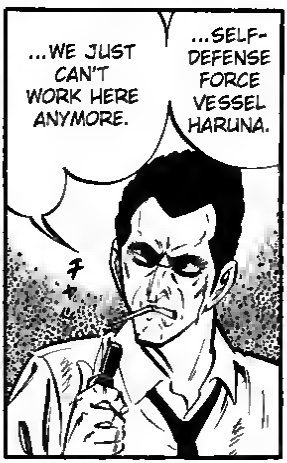
...FOR NOW THE EVACUATION FROM WHAT'S LEFT OF THE PENINSULA SEEMS TO BE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY BUT...


...WHERE'S D-1 MOVING TO?
...E-EVACUATE...?

WELL... I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR US TO... EVACUATE TOO...

...AND HERE COMES THE RAIN... SUMMONED BY ALL THE HEAT RELEASED IN THE ERUPTION...


...WE JUST CAN'T WORK HERE ANYMORE.
...SELF-DEFENSE FORCE VESSEL HARUNA.

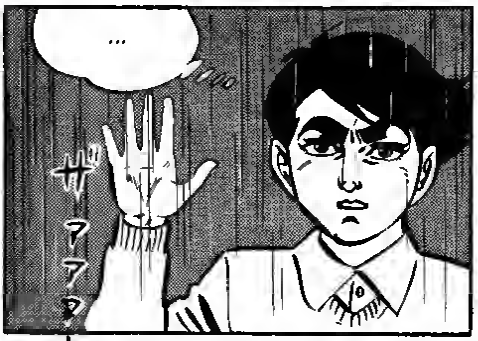
TOKYO,
YOYOGI
AREA.
ザアアアー
ザアアアー
ザアアアー
ゴオオオオオ

Hi, AUNTIE!
TORU!
THEY ARRANGED BUSES TO THE AIRPORT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM YOYOGI PARK.
HURRY AND GET WHAT YOU WANT TO TAKE WITH YOU.
BUT...
THEY'VE ORDERED EVERYONE OUT OF THIS AREA WITHIN THREE DAYS.
COME WITH US... LET'S GO!

...WHY KEEP WAITING FOR HER...? THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SHE'LL BE BACK...
...REIKO ...?
BUT... MY SISTER...
...MAYBE SHE HAD NO TIME TO COME BY THE HOUSE...
SHE... MAY HAVE ALREADY LEFT FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY...
...WHY...?
...
...A FEW MORE DAYS ... AND THE WATER WILL BE HERE TOO!
...IT'S ALREADY SPILLED INTO THE MOAT AROUND THE EMPEROR'S PALACE.
WITH ALL THIS RAIN... AND THE GROUND SINKING,... THE SUMIDA RIVER HAS OVERFLOWED ITS BANKS!
I'M GOING TO WAIT TWO OR THREE MORE DAYS...
WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE!
DON'T BE SILLY, TORU.

COME ON, CHILD. LET'S GO!
SOON THERE WILL BE NOBODY LEFT HERE!
NON-SENSE, TORU!
...I'M GOING TO WAIT FOR HER FOR A WHILE LONGER.
STILL...
...
YOU AND YOSHIKO GO AHEAD, AUNTIE...
I SAID NO.
WE... WON'T MEET AGAIN, RIGHT?
...WHERE WILL YOU GO?
...GOODBYE, THEN, TORU... WE HAVE TO GO...
GOOD LUCK, AUNTIE... YOSHIKO...
...I'M SURE WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, TORU...
...BUT...
WE ARE BOTH GOING TO AUSTRALIA...

...KEEP SAFE!
...YOU TOO...TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF, TORU.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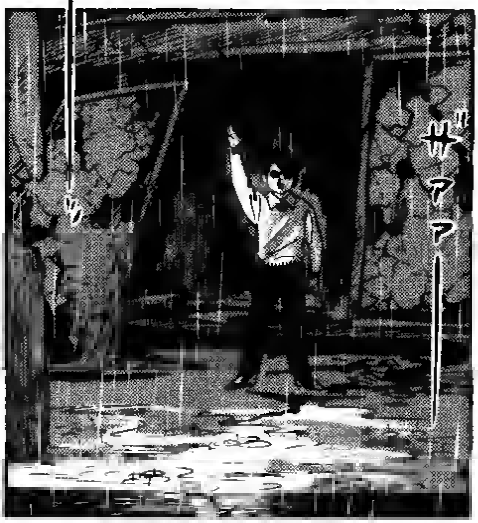

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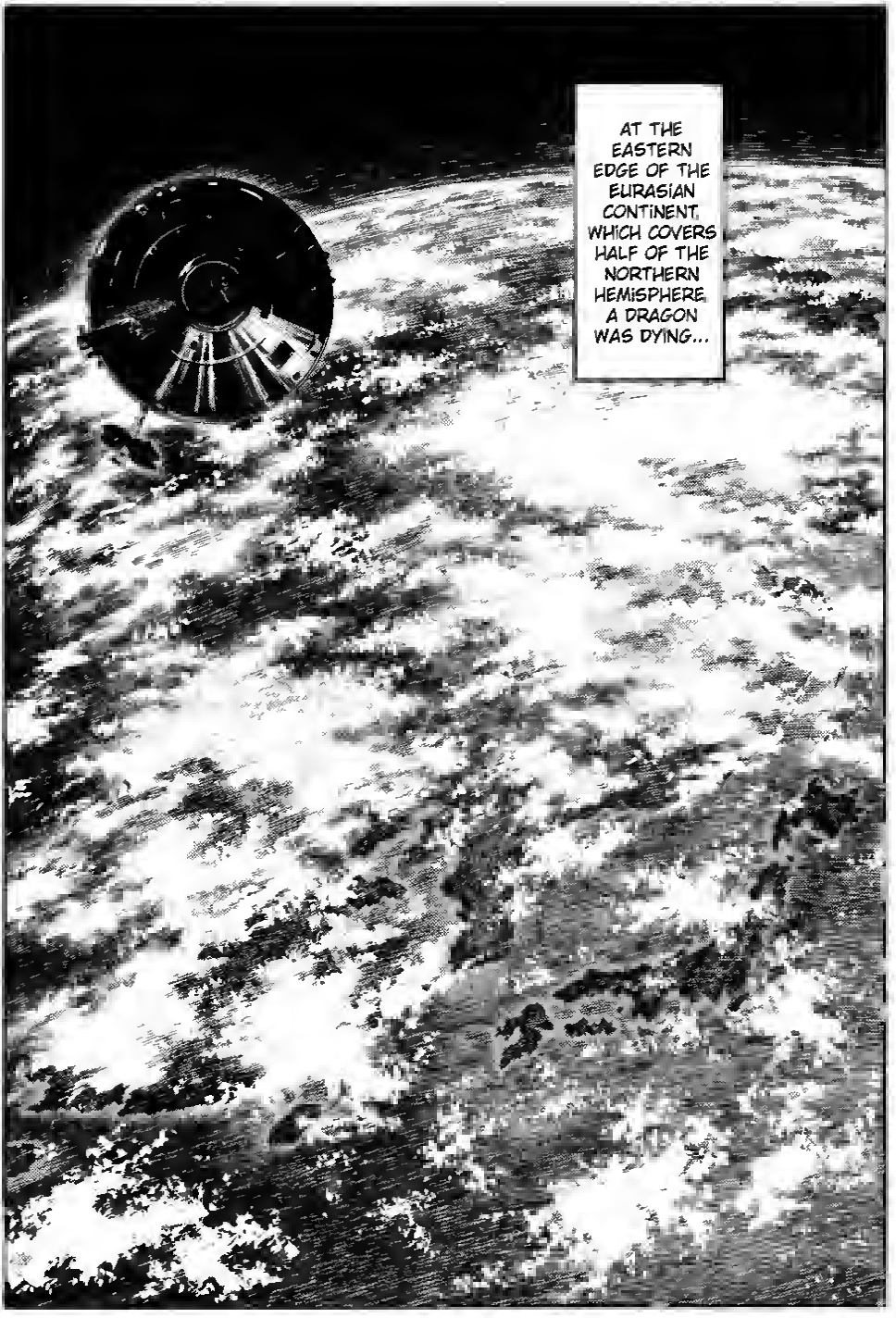
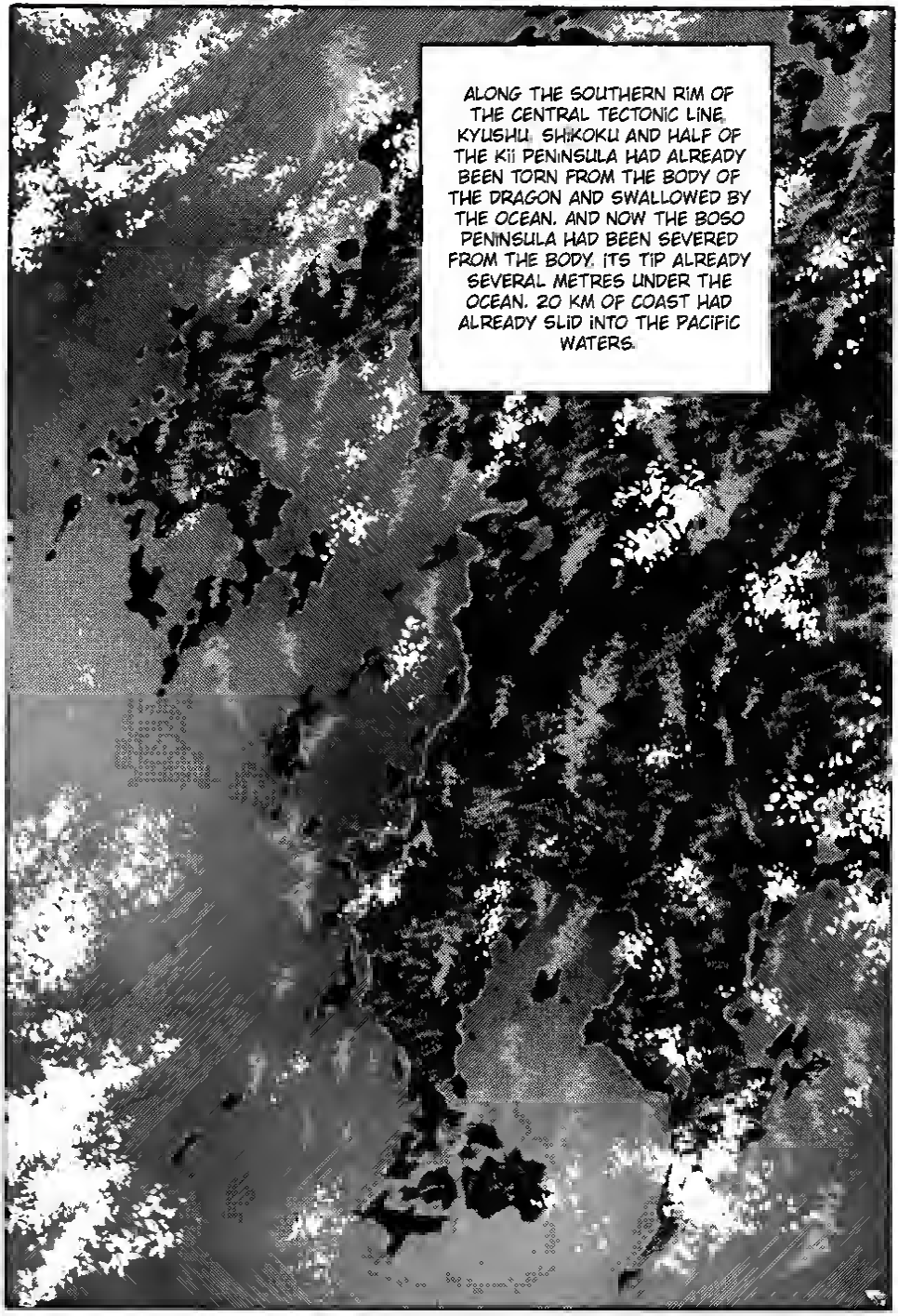
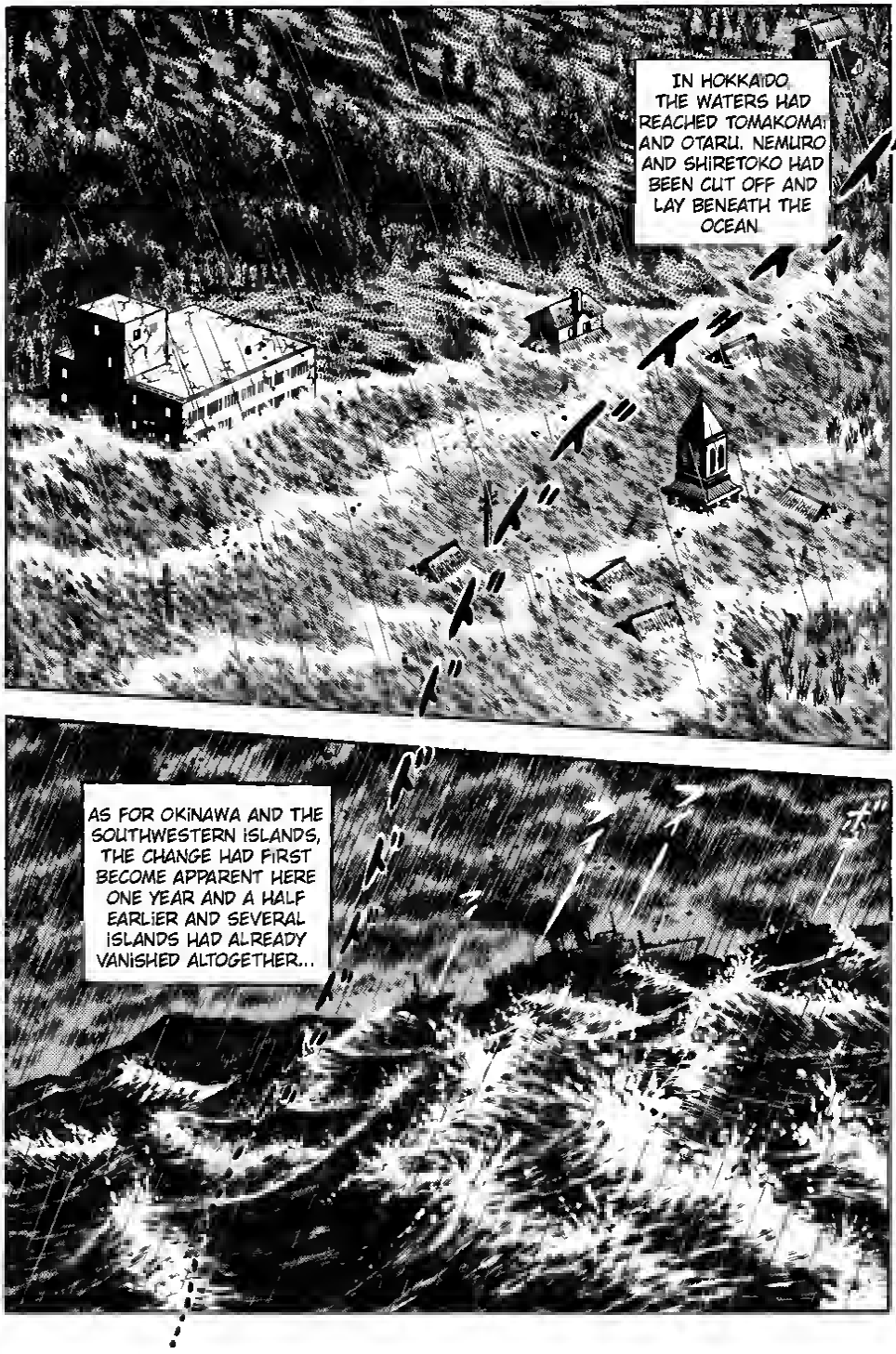

AT THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE EURASIAN CONTINENT, WHICH COVERS HALF OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, A DRAGON WAS DYING...


ALONG THE SOUTHERN RIM OF THE CENTRAL TECTONIC LINE, KYUSHU, SHIKOKU AND HALF OF THE KII PENINSULA HAD ALREADY BEEN TORN FROM THE BODY OF THE DRAGON AND SWALLOWED BY THE OCEAN. AND NOW THE BOSO PENINSULA HAD BEEN SEVERED FROM THE BODY. ITS TIP ALREADY SEVERAL METRES UNDER THE OCEAN. 20 KM OF COAST HAD ALREADY SLID INTO THE PACIFIC WATERS.


IN HOKKAIDO, THE WATERS HAD REACHED TOMAKOMAI AND OTARU. NEMURO AND SHIRETOKO HAD BEEN CUT OFF AND LAY BENEATH THE OCEAN.
AS FOR OKINAWA AND THE SOUTHWESTERN ISLANDS, THE CHANGE HAD FIRST BECOME APPARENT HERE ONE YEAR AND A HALF EARLIER AND SEVERAL ISLANDS HAD ALREADY VANISHED ALTOGETHER...

IN THE TWO THREE YEARS SINCE THE CHANGE HAD STARTED THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO HAD SLIPPED SEVERAL TENS OF KILOMETRES TO THE SOUTH SOUTHEAST...
THE PRESSURE FROM THE SEA OF JAPAN HAD BEEN SPECIALLY STRONG ON CENTRAL HONSHU WHOSE WESTERN SIDE HAD ALREADY SHIFTED 30 KM TO THE WEST, ITS EASTERN ONE OVER 20 KM TO THE SOUTH SOUTHEAST...

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IN THE BRIEF SPACE OF A FEW MONTHS, A 20 KM-LONG CHASM HAD FORMED BETWEEN THE TOYO RIVER MOUTH IN ATSUMI BAY AND THE OI RIVER MOUTH IN SURUGA BAY...
THE ENSHUNADA REGION, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SPLIT IN TWO, WAS FURTHER BROKEN UP. THE CITIES OF TOYOHASHI, HAMAMATSU AND KAKEGAWA HAD BEEN COMPLETELY SUBMERGED BY THE SEA...
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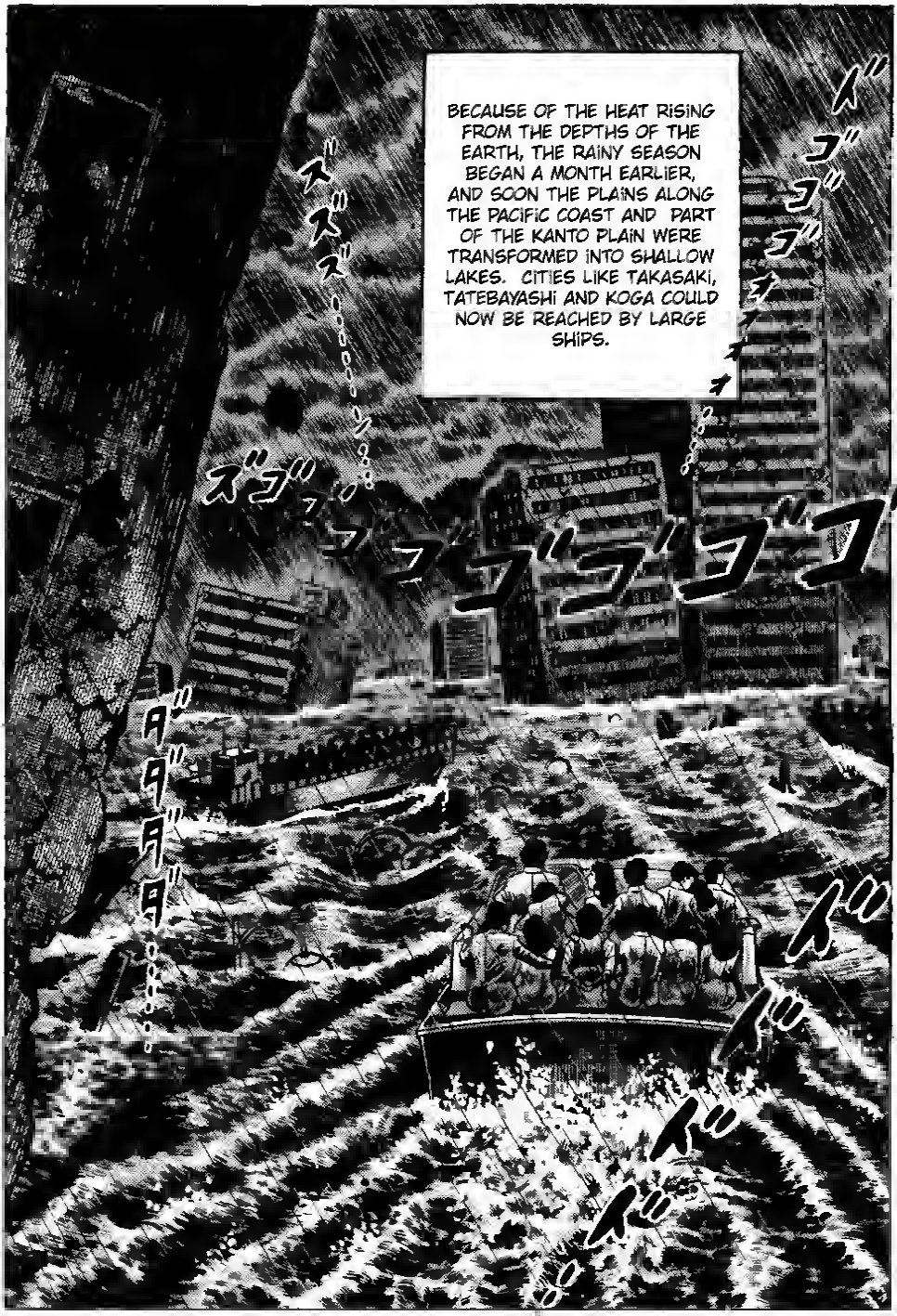
THE FOAMING, DARK WATERS REACHED THE BASE OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ALPS, CAUSED THE TENRYU TO FLOW UPWARDS, INUNDATED THE INA BASIN AND TRANSFORMED IT INTO A LAKE.


BECAUSE OF THE HEAT RISING FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, THE RAINY SEASON BEGAN A MONTH EARLIER, AND SOON THE PLAINS ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST AND PART OF THE KANTO PLAIN WERE TRANSFORMED INTO SHALLOW LAKES. CITIES LIKE TAKASAKI, TATEBAYASHI AND KOGA COULD NOW BE REACHED BY LARGE SHIPS.
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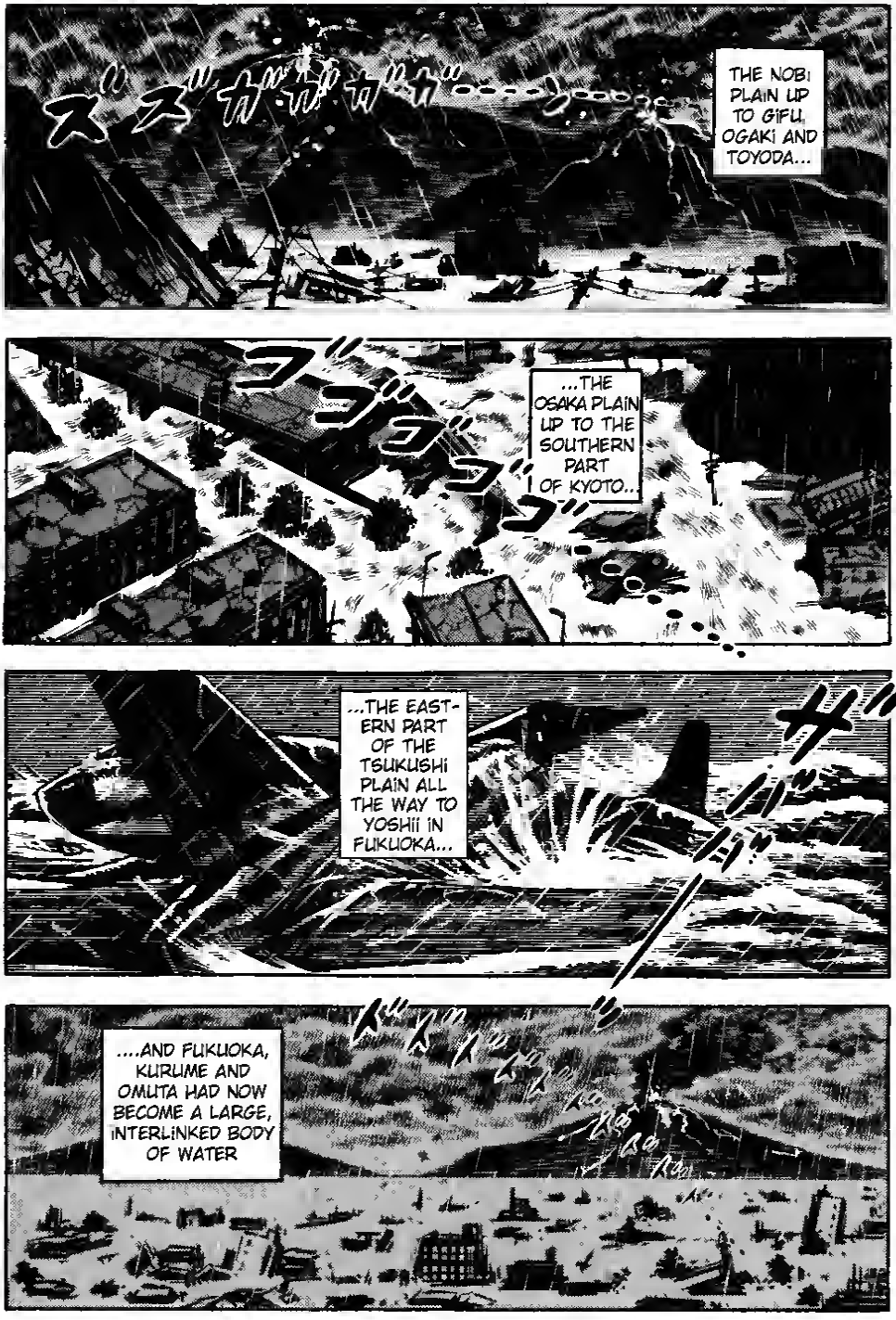
THE NOBI PLAIN UP TO GIFU, OGAKI AND TOYODA...
...THE OSAKA PLAIN UP TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF KYOTO...
...THE EASTERN PART OF THE TSUKUSHI PLAIN ALL THE WAY TO YOSHII IN FUKUOKA...
....AND FUKUOKA, KURUME AND OMUTA HAD NOW BECOME A LARGE, INTERLINKED BODY OF WATER

IN HOKKAIDO, THE WATERS FROM THE PACIFIC HAD PENETRATED AS FAR INLAND AS OBIHIRO AND SHIBECHA IN THE KUSHIRO PLAIN. KONSEN PLATEAU WAS CRISSCROSSED BY SMALL CHANNELS AND LOOKED LIKE A COASTAL PLAIN ESTUARY,.
IN THE SENDAI PLAIN, THE WATERS FROM SENDAI BAY HAD REACHED ALL THE WAY TO ICHINOSEKI AND HIRAIZUMI.
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...OH, NO! THE WATER'S ALREADY HERE...!
...HEY! HEY.... ANYBODY THERE?
YO! OVER HERE!
...ANSWER!
...HAS ANYBODY BEEN LEFT BEHIND?
TAKE ME WITH YOU...!
...I'M OVER HERE!

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WAHH!
KOFF!
HEY, WAIT...!
...HEY!
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UNGHHH!

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OVER HERE! HELP ME!
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YOU'LL BE FINE NOW.
GET IN!
DID YOU SEE ANYBODY ELSE AROUND HERE?
...O-ONODERA!
TORU!
OKAY, LET'S MOVE.
NO... NOBODY.
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...NO... I NEVER DID...
SO... YOU NEVER FOUND MY SISTER?
...SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THEIR BROTHERS, SISTERS, PARENTS... SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY...
BUT... IT'S NOT JUST US, TORU...
...WE MAY NEVER MEET HER AGAIN...

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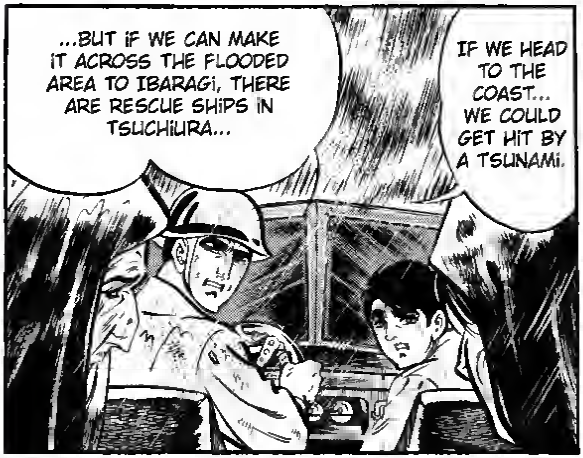
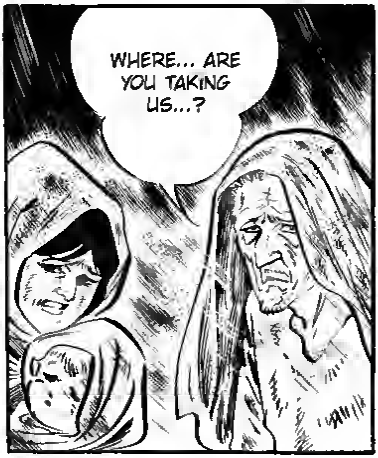

...BUT IF WE CAN MAKE IT ACROSS THE FLOODED AREA TO IBARAGI, THERE ARE RESCUE SHIPS IN TSUCHIURA...
IF WE HEAD TO THE COAST... WE COULD GET HIT BY A TSUNAMI.


WHERE... ARE YOU TAKING US...?

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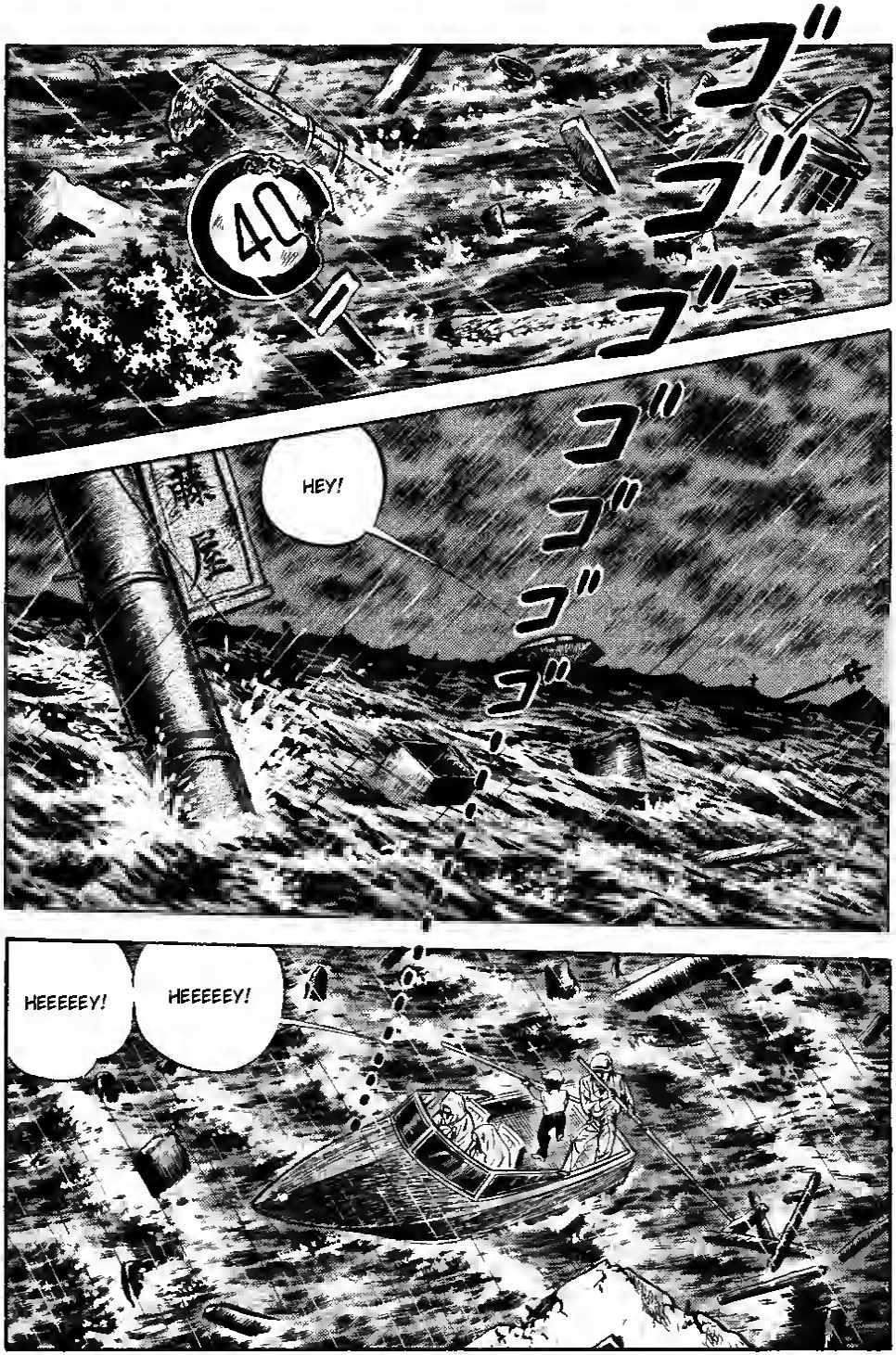
...REALLY...? NO MORE... PETROL?
THAT'S IT.
...AND HERE, OF ALL PLACES...
...DAMN...!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HEY!
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HEEEEEY!
HEEEEEY!

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...THEY... ARE STILL YOUNG....
...I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME... BUT...
...SAVE MY DAUGHTER AND MY GRANDCHILD...
I BEG YOU...
I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO SAVE EVERYONE ON THIS BOAT,
DON'T WORRY, SIR...
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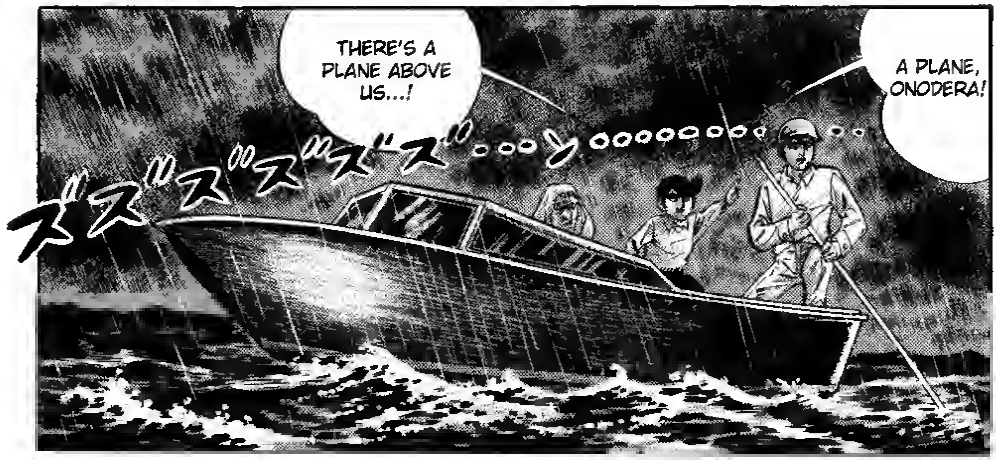
THERE'S A PLANE ABOVE US...!
A PLANE, ONODERA!
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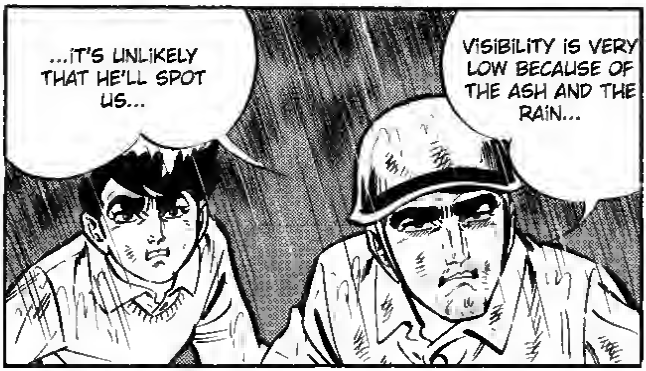
...BESIDES, FROM THE NOISE... IT'S PROBABLY A FOREIGN NEWSTEAM PLANE.


...IT'S UNLIKELY THAT HE'LL SPOT US...
VISIBILITY IS VERY LOW BECAUSE OF THE ASH AND THE RAIN...

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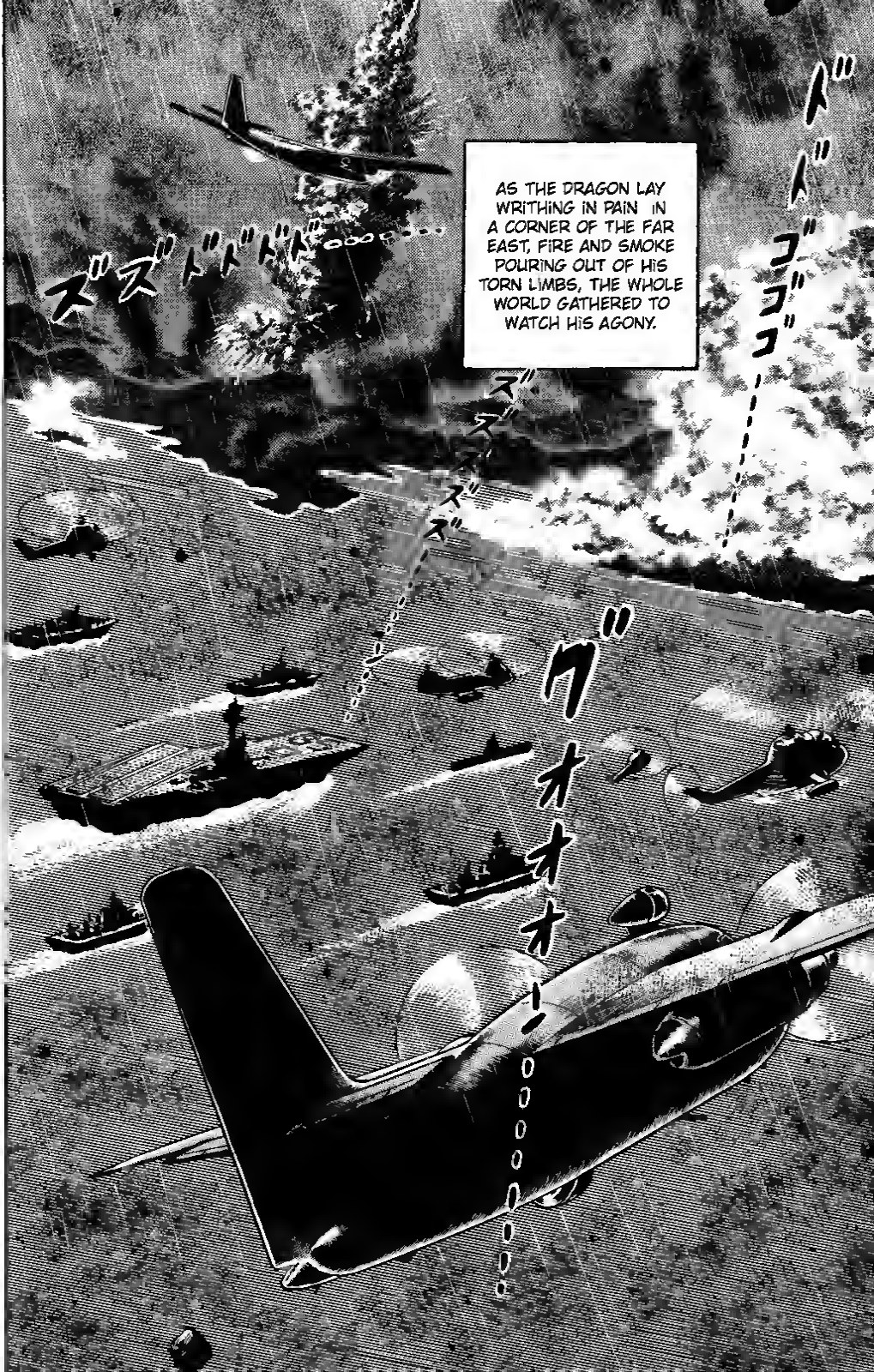
AS THE DRAGON LAY WRITHING IN PAIN IN A CORNER OF THE FAR EAST, FIRE AND SMOKE POURING OUT OF HIS TORN LIMBS, THE WHOLE WORLD GATHERED TO WATCH HIS AGONY.
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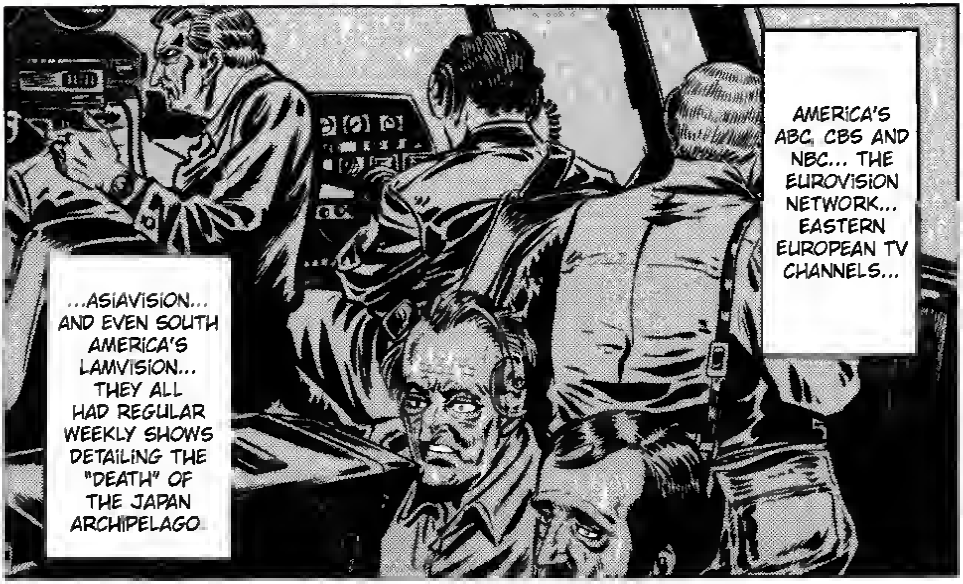
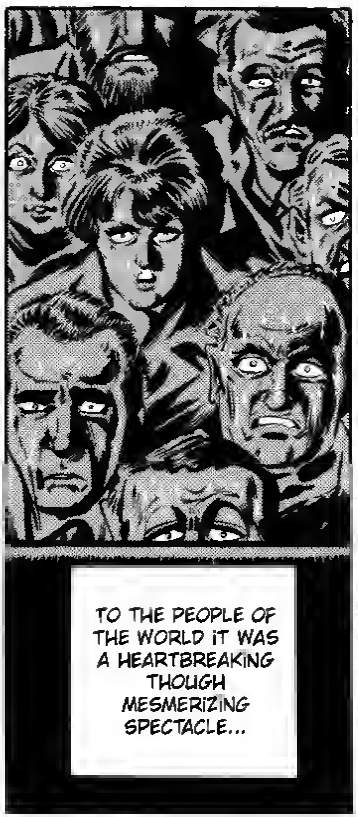
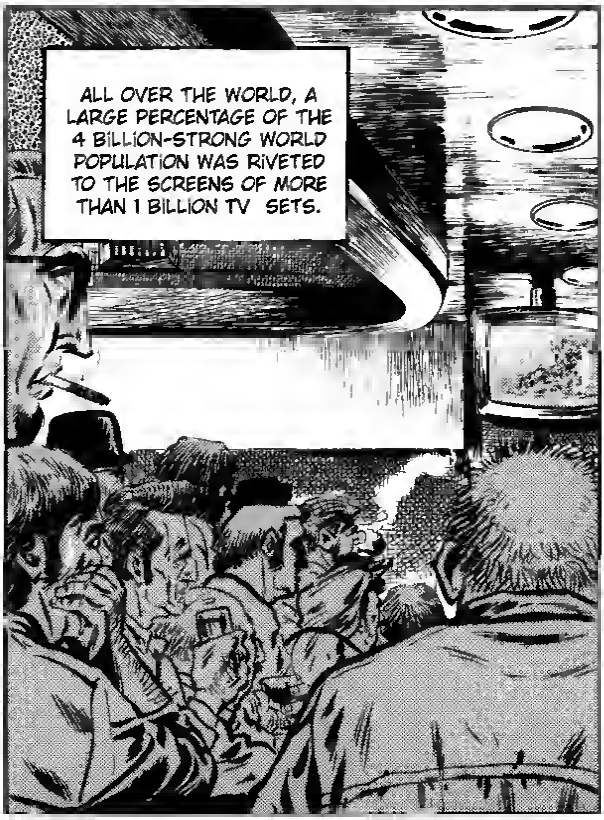
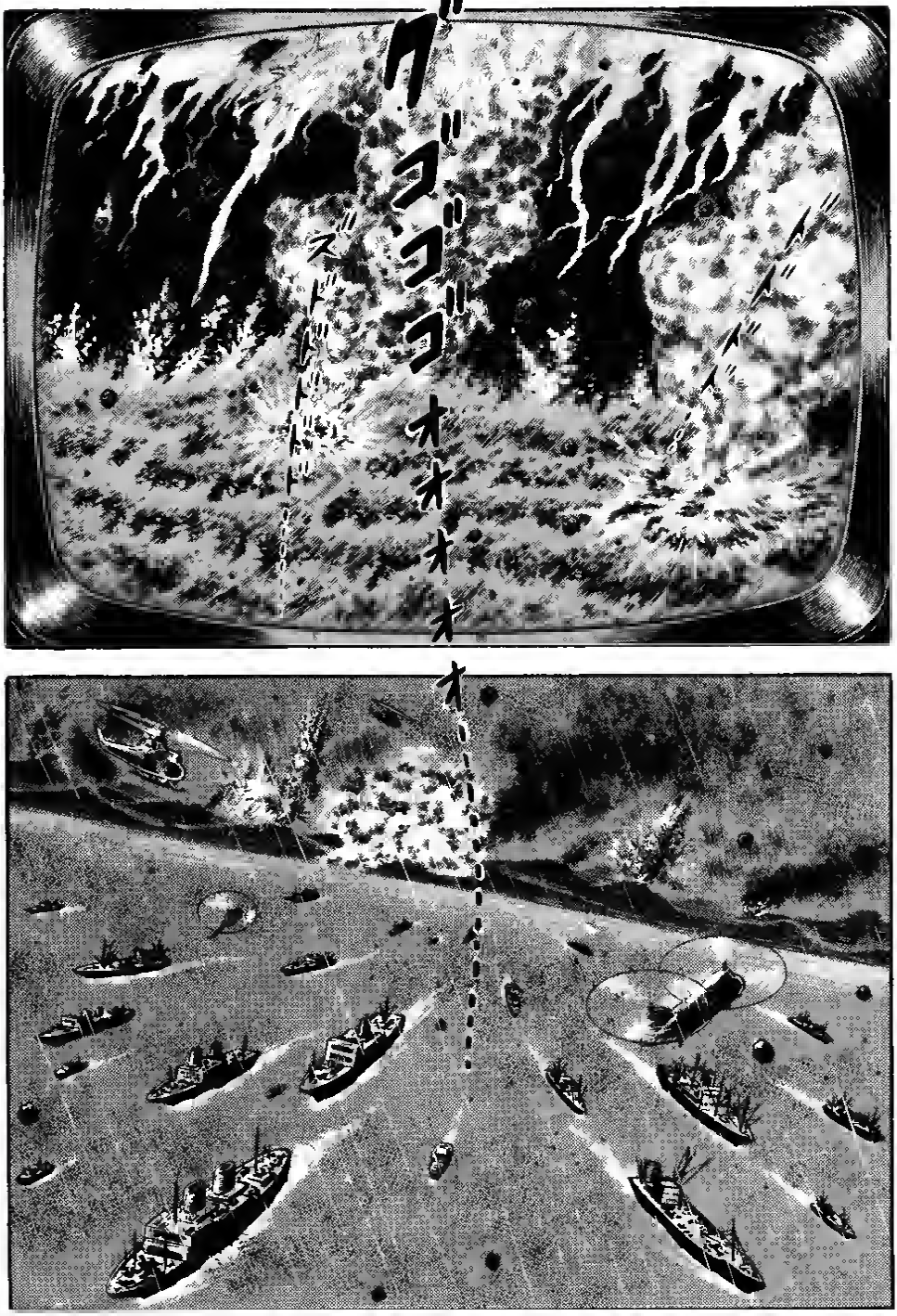

AMERICA'S ABC, CBS AND NBC... THE EUROVISION NETWORK... EASTERN EUROPEAN TV CHANNELS...
...ASIAVISION... AND EVEN SOUTH AMERICA'S LAMVISION... THEY ALL HAD REGULAR WEEKLY SHOWS DETAILING THE "DEATH" OF THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO


TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD IT WAS A HEARTBREAKING THOUGH MESMERIZING SPECTACLE...


ALL OVER THE WORLD, A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE 4 BILLION-STRONG WORLD POPULATION WAS RIVETED TO THE SCREENS OF MORE THAN 1 BILLION TV SETS.

...WHAT WE'VE LEARNT FROM THE "SINKING OF JAPAN" IN TERMS OF ABRUPT CHANGES IN MANTLE CONVECTION GIVES A NEW CREDIBILITY TO THE LEGEND OF ATLANTIS...
...IT'S A ONCE IN A THOUSAND-YEAR OPPORTUNITY!
...FOR SCIENTISTS LIKE US IT'S... FASCINATING TO BE WATCHING IN REAL TIME A RE-ENACTMENT OF THE LEGEND OF ATLANTIS OF WHICH WE KNEW SO LITTLE, AND MOSTLY IN THE FORM OF OLD MYTHS AND LORE...
... CHURCHWARD'S "LOST CONTINENT OF MU", LONG REGARDED AS A FAR MORE PREPOSTEROUS TALE THAN ATLANTIS'S...
AND NOT JUST THE ATLANTIS.... SUCH AN UNCOMMON GEOKINETIC PHENOMENON WILL EVEN FORCE US TO RECONSIDER...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...TO INTERVIEW THE MARINE COMMANDER IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS...
...I'M HERE ON THE DECK OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS FORRESTAL OF AMERICA'S SEVENTH FLEET...
ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S RESCUE COMMITTEE...
TELL US, MR. GRANT, HOW MANY JAPANESE HAVE BEEN RESCUED UP TO NOW?
...BRIG-ADIER GENERAL GRANT.
...AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT CLOSES DOWN.
...UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY LARGE AIRPORT STILL FUNCTIONING IN THE COUNTRY IS HOKKAIDO'S CHITOSE AIRPORT...
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE HELP OF INTERNATIONAL RELIEF TEAMS, IS FIGHTING AGAINST ALL ODDS TO RAISE THAT NUMBER TO 70 MILLION BY THE END OF JULY.
...AT THE MIND-BLOWING RATE OF 16 MILLION PER MONTH.
...65 MILLION JAPANESE WERE EVACUATED BY JULY,..

...WE ALSO EXPECT THE RESCUE EFFORT TO BE COMPLICATED BY THE INCREASING NUMBER OF EARTHQUAKES AND ERUPTIONS... NOT TO MENTION FUEL SHORTAGES...
...AND SPECIAL LANDING CRAFT...
...SOON MOST RESCUE MISSIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT NOT BY AIRLINERS AND SHIPS, BUT BY HELICOPTERS, STOL PLANES, AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH ALL TERRAIN LANDING GEAR...
AT PRESENT, OVER 30 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THEIR TURN TO BE EVACUATED FROM DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.
SO... HOW MANY JAPANESE DO YOU ESTIMATE ARE STILL LEFT IN JAPAN?
...AND THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISION WILL BE..
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, CASUALTIES AMONG RESCUERS ARE ONLY GOING TO INCREASE...
...WHEN TO SUSPEND RESCUE OPERATIONS.
...THOUGH SAVING EVERYONE WILL BE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT.
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, THE ARMY AND CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMMITTED TO FIGHT TILL THE END, SACRIFICING MANY OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE...

FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, ALL JAPANESE RESCUE WORKERS, SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALIKE, HAVE SHOWN INCREDIBLE COURAGE!
WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF SUCH TREMENDOUS HARDSHIP?
ONE LAST QUES-TION...
...RARELY HAVE I WITNESSED SUCH AN ABSOLUTE DISREGARD FOR DANGER...
I KNOW IT'S NATURAL TO WANT TO SAVE YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS BUT...
MANY TIMES I'VE SEEN THEM GO TO PLACES WHERE EVEN BATTLE-HARDENED MARINES WOULD HAVE BEEN HESITANT TO VENTURE...
...TO THE POINT WE'VE OFTEN ASKED OURSELVES IF THE SORROW OF LOSING THEIR COUNTRY HASN'T DRIVEN THEM A BIT... CRAZY.
...AND THE SUPPOSEDLY WEAKER YOUNGER GENERATION WAS JUST AS IMPRESSIVE.
...OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY THEY'RE ALL SOLDIERS AT HEART.
SOMETIMES I THINK ALL JAPANESE ARE KAMIKAZE IN SPIRIT..

...AND NOW BACK TO THE STUDIO.
...THANK YOU FOR WATCHING.
THE THOUGHT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME DIZZY...
IMAGINE...IF THE GROUND WERE TO SUDDENLY...
STILL... I'M SO HAPPY IT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO OUR COUNTRY!

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THE RESCUE UNITS THEMSELVES HAD ALREADY SUFFERED OVER 5000 CASUALTIES.
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UH? WHAT'S THAT...?
LOOK... LAND! LAND!

...I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA...
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE...ARE WE...?
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HEEEEY!

...WE GOT LOST OURSELVES...
...NO...
ARE YOU HERE... TO RESCUE US?
OH...!
...WE DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANYONE LEFT AROUND HERE.
...THE NAME OF THIS PLACE WAS ABOTSUKE...
THIS USED TO BE PART OF MITO CITY, IBARAGI...
WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE?
...NO ONE'S COME TO HELP US.
WE'VE BEEN LIGHTING FIRES AND SHOOTING FLARES FOR THE LAST FOUR DAYS BUT...
...IF A TSUNAMI WERE TO STRIKE THIS AREA NOW, NONE OF US WOULD SURVIVE...
...I'D SAY ABOUT... SIX METRES IN FOUR DAYS...
...WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR FOUR DAYS... THE WATER'S BEEN RISING ALL THE TIME...

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……I SEE… THE AREA AROUND MT. TSUKUBA IS NOW AN ISLAND…

WE CAN'T STAY HERE! IT'D BE LIKE... WAITING TO DIE!
UH? ANOTHER QUAKE!
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ゴロゴロゴロゴロ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH... KATAOKA!
ONODERA ...IT'S YOU!
HEY! ARE YOU... ONODERA?
...SOME NUCLEAR MATERIALS THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN DISPOSED OF BEFORE THE SINKING HAD LEAKED INTO THE SEA AND CONTAMINATED THE WATER...
...I WAS PART OF A TEAM OF THREE... WE WERE TO CHECK A SUNKEN NUCLEAR REACTOR AND A LAB NEAR TOKAI VILLAGE...
I NEVER IMAGINED I'D MEET YOU AGAIN... WE GUESSED YOU'D ALREADY LEFT THE COUNTRY.
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN A TSUNAMI AND ENDED UP HERE...

...THE PS-1 WHICH HAD TAKEN US THERE WAS STRUCK DOWN BY A WAVE AND SMASHED TO PIECES AS IT WAS TAKING OFF...
THE TSUNAMI HIT AS WE WERE ABOUT TO SWIM BACK TO OUR DINGHY,,,,,,
...FORTUNATELY IT WASN'T VERY SERIOUS... WE SAW RIGHT AWAY THAT MOST OF THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES HAD DISSOLVED IN THE WATER.
...
...BUT THE OTHERS... THEY WERE SWEPT AWAY BY THE TSUNAMI'S UNDERTOW...
...THEN THE DINGHY GOT STUCK IN A BRANCH OF A SUB-MERGED TREE...
...I HUNG ON TO THE RUBBER DINGHY... IT WAS ALMOST LIKE SURFING...
UHM... THIS MORNING, FROM THE PLANE... I SAW ONE OR TWO BUT... NOW?
...DID YOU SEE ANY SHIPS IN THE AREA?
LET'S TRY CALLING ANY-WAY ...
...I'VE LEFT IT ON SINCE THIS MORNING AND IT MUST BE VERY LOW ON BATTERIES...
I DO BUT...
DO YOU HAVE A TRANS-MITTER?

EVEN IF A SHIP OR A PLANE PICKED UP OUR SIGNAL... THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COME RIGHT AWAY...
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...
BESIDES... RESCUE OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA WERE DECLARED OVER FOUR-FIVE DAYS AGO...
...YEAH, THEY MAY HAVE TO TAKE A LONG ROUTE TO REACH US...
BUT... THERE'S NO TELLING HOW HIGH THE WATER IS ON THE OTHER SIDE!
IT MAY BE EASIER FOR A BOAT OR A HELICOPTER TO REACH US THERE...
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO GO OVER THE MOUNTAIN AND CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE?

ARE FLASH LIGHT BATTERIES OK? WE HAVE SOME...
...I HAD SOME SPARE BATTERIES BUT... THEY WERE WASHED AWAY...
NO GOOD... THE SIGNAL'S TOO WEAK...
LISTEN... A FEW KM BACK WE SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN ABANDONED SELF-DEFENSE FORCE TRUCK... COULDN'T WE USE ITS BATTERIES?
WE COULD TRY...
I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK...
WHERE IS IT?
ITS' WORTH A TRY...
THEY WOULD BE DEAD NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
...YOU COULD FOLLOW A WINDY MOUNTAIN TRACK AND GET BACK HERE... WITH ALL THE FALLING ASH?
DO YOU REALLY THINK ...
...YOU'LL ONLY GET LOST!
NO, ONODERA...

CAN ANYBODY LEND ME A FLASHLIGHT?
I CAN'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY OF GETTING OUT OF HERE... LET ME TRY.
...AND THE TRUCK IS HIDDEN FROM VIEW, YOU'D NEVER FIND IT ON YOUR OWN.
IT'S GETTING DARK...
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.
...BE CAREFUL, YOU TWO!
ONODERA...

A SHIP!
...IT'S A SHIP!
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OVER HERE! HELP US!
HEY!
...AND BRING ALL THE FLASHLIGHTS HERE, EXCEPT FOR TWO!
STOKE THE FIRE!
IT SHOULD WORK... IT'S NOT THAT FAR AWAY...
USE AS MANY OF THESE DRY BATTERIES AS YOU WANT.

NO... IT SOUNDS LIKE... AN AMERICAN SHIP...
SELF-DEFENCE FORCES?
INTER-RUPT THEM!
...YES! THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TRANSMISSION!
UHM...
... RECEPTION IS EXCELLENT ... THEY'RE VERY CLOSE...
SO... THEY MUST BE TALKING TO SOMEONE IN THIS AREA, RIGHT?
...IN CODE?
I DON'T KNOW... I RECOGNIZE SOME WORDS BUT... THEY'RE MOSTLY TALKING IN CODE...
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

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...BUT... THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING...
I'M TRYING...
GO ON, INTERRUPT THEM!
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...APART FROM THE SHIP AND THE LAND... THERE'S A THIRD SOURCE OF TRANSMISSION...
ONODERA...
...IT'S A THREE-WAY TRANSMISSION...
AND WHY HAVE THEY TURNED OFF ALL LIGHTS ON BOARD?
NO LUCK WITH LIGHT SIGNALS EITHER.
!!
THEY'RE IGNORING US...
DAMN! THEY CUT RADIO CONTACT...

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...THREE OF THEM ARE HEADING THIS WAY!
...LANDING CRAFT!
...HURRY!
...THIS WAY!
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THERE ARE THREE BOATS HEADING TO THE SHORE.
EVERYONE HURRY UP!
HURRY!

I THOUGHT THEY WERE HEADING HERE BUT...
WHERE... DID THEY MAKE LAND...?
THERE THEY ARE!

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HOLD IT!
ARE YOU CIVILIANS...?
WE GOT LOST AND COULDN'T LEAVE WITH THE OTHERS
...THEY TELL ME.
THIS AREA'S BEEN CLOSED OFF. RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE OVER.....
TAKE US ABOARD. WE HAVE WOMEN AND CHIL-DREN.
THE TWO OF US ARE RESCUE WORKERS, THE REST ARE CIVILIANS.

HURRY!
...ASSISTING CIVILIANS IS NOT PART OF OUR DUTIES.
...WE'VE COME ALL THE WAY HERE... TO CARRY OUT A TOP-SECRET MISSION...
I'M SORRY BUT...
I CAN'T TAKE YOU ON BOARD, THE SHIP'S TOO SMALL. THERE'S BARELY SPACE FOR US AND OUR... CARGO...
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, UNFORTUNATELY ...
...THEY'VE BEEN ROAMING THESE WOODS FOR OVER TEN DAYS!
ARE YOU GOING TO LET WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE DIE?
...W-WHAT ?
I CAN'T LET YOU ON THE SHIP.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY BUT... I'M A SOLDIER, I'VE GOT ORDERS TO FOLLOW.
CARGO...? WHAT CAN BE MORE PRECIOUS THAN HUMAN LIVES?

THE GROUND IS SINKING THREE METRES A DAY... A TSUNAMI WOULD KILL US ALL!
RADIO YOUR MOTHER SHIP AT LEAST, AND ASK THEM TO GET HELP!
THE SHIP WILL CAST OFF AS SOON AS WE'VE RETRIEVED OUR CARGO
TECHNICALLY I'M IN VIOLATION OF ORDERS JUST FOR TALKING TO YOU, YOU SEE...
...WHAT KIND OF HUMAN BEINGS ARE YOU?!
HOLD IT, ONODERA!
...
WE'RE UNDER A COMMUNICATION BLACKOUT UNTIL WE LEAVE THE AREA, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT...
I NEED TO CONSULT MY SUPERIORS ABOUT THAT. I CAN'T PROMISE ANY-THING...
DAMN YOU!
ドドド

WHAT ABOUT WOMEN AND CHILDREN ONLY?
FIVE... MAYBE SIX.
AND NOW ANSWER ME! HOW MANY PEOPLE?
I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR ORDERS COME FROM?
NO, YOU WON'T. GET ME A PEN AND SOME PAPER.
BUT... I'LL GET HELL FOR THAT.
MAKE IT TEN, THEN, I'LL STAY BEHIND.
...EIGHT, NINE, NO MORE THAN THAT.
...AND ONODERA! ...HERE?!
UH? KATAOKA...!
BUT... YOU'RE... KUNIEDA!

UNLOAD CRATE "B"!
HURRY!
TAKE OUT THE SECOND FROM THE LAST... CRATE "B"... I KNOW ITS CONTENTS BEST...
LEAVE THAT TO ME, I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.
...WHAT ABOUT THE CRATE WE'RE LEAVING BEHIND?
THE MAN WHO HAD THIS JOB BEFORE ME DIED IN AN EARTHQUAKE... I'VE REPLACED HIM FOR A MONTH.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN PEOPLE WHO SERVE THE STATE HAVE TO DO TERRIBLE THINGS FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY BUT... THIS TIME I CAN'T.
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE...
ズ"ズーウ
...AND I PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE. IT COMES WITH WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT...
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TELL YOU...
WHAT THE HELL'S IN THOSE CRATES?
WE MOVED THEM OUT OF MITO BEFORE THE WATER GOT THERE...
AND YOUR JOB IS... TO GUARD THOSE CRATES?

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PLEASE, HURRY. TIME'S SLIPPING AWAY!

...DARLING!

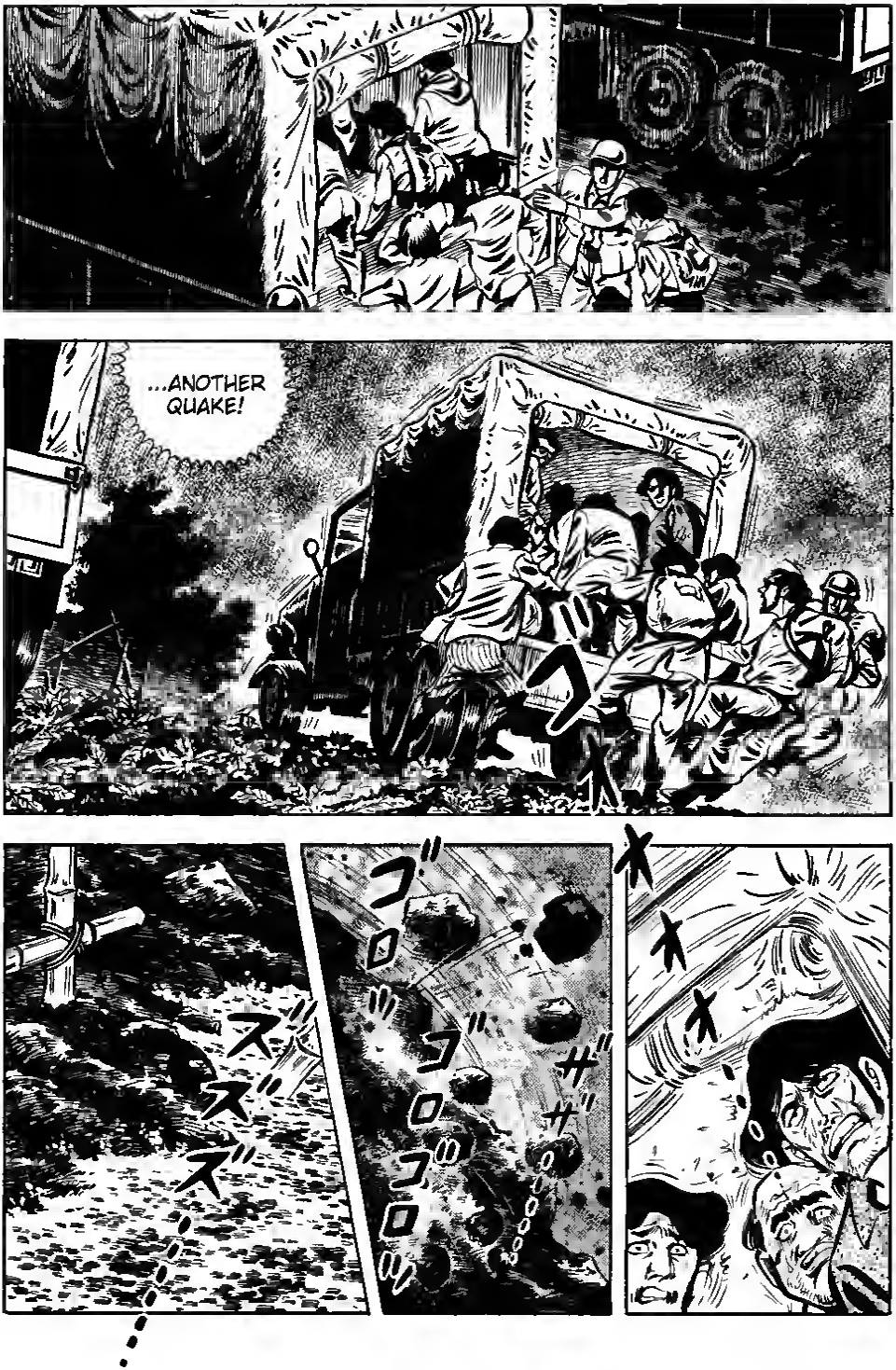
...DARLING!
YOU'LL MEET AGAIN IN AMERICA. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO.
IT'S OKAY.

TOMOKO! TOMOKO!
TOMOKO!

I CAN'T LEAVE MY HUSBAND! IF HE DIES, I WANT TO DIE WITH HIM!
I WANT TO STAY!
NO, I CAN'T GO...

...DARLING!
...DARLING...! BE SAFE, PLEASE!
KAZUEEE! STAY SAFE!
TERUKOOO!
TERUKOOO!
GOODBYE, AKIKO! TAKE CARE!
...YUKIE!
I CAN WAIT. I'LL STAY HERE WITH ONODERA.
YOU...?
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO?

...I DO VALUE YOUR LIVES...
...BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT... I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT...
I WISHED I COULD'VE UNLOADED ALL THOSE CRATES AND LET YOU ON THE SHIP INSTEAD...
THOSE CRATES... THEY ARE PART OF THEIR FUTURE.
...BUT I ALSO MUST THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MILLIONS OF OUR BROTHERS WHO HAD TO LEAVE AND WILL SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES ABROAD...
I TOOK THE DRIVER ASIDE AND ASKED HIM TO LEAVE US A FIELD RADIO...
BESIDES... WE CAN STILL MAKE IT.


...ANOTHER QUAKE!
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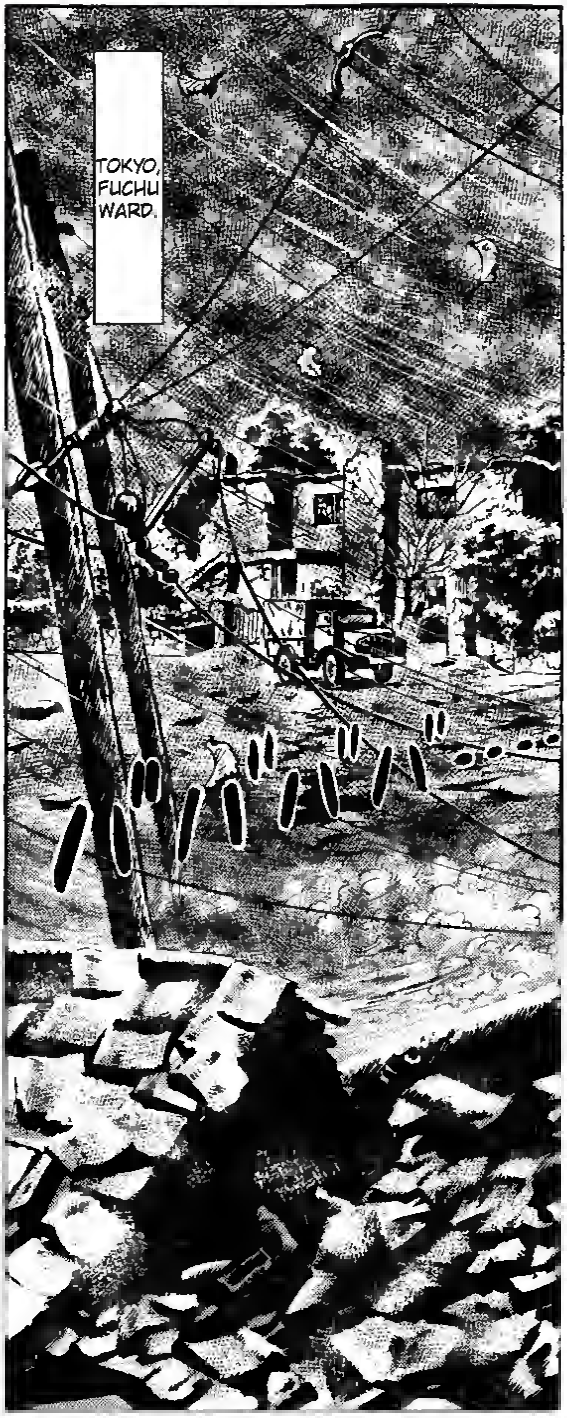
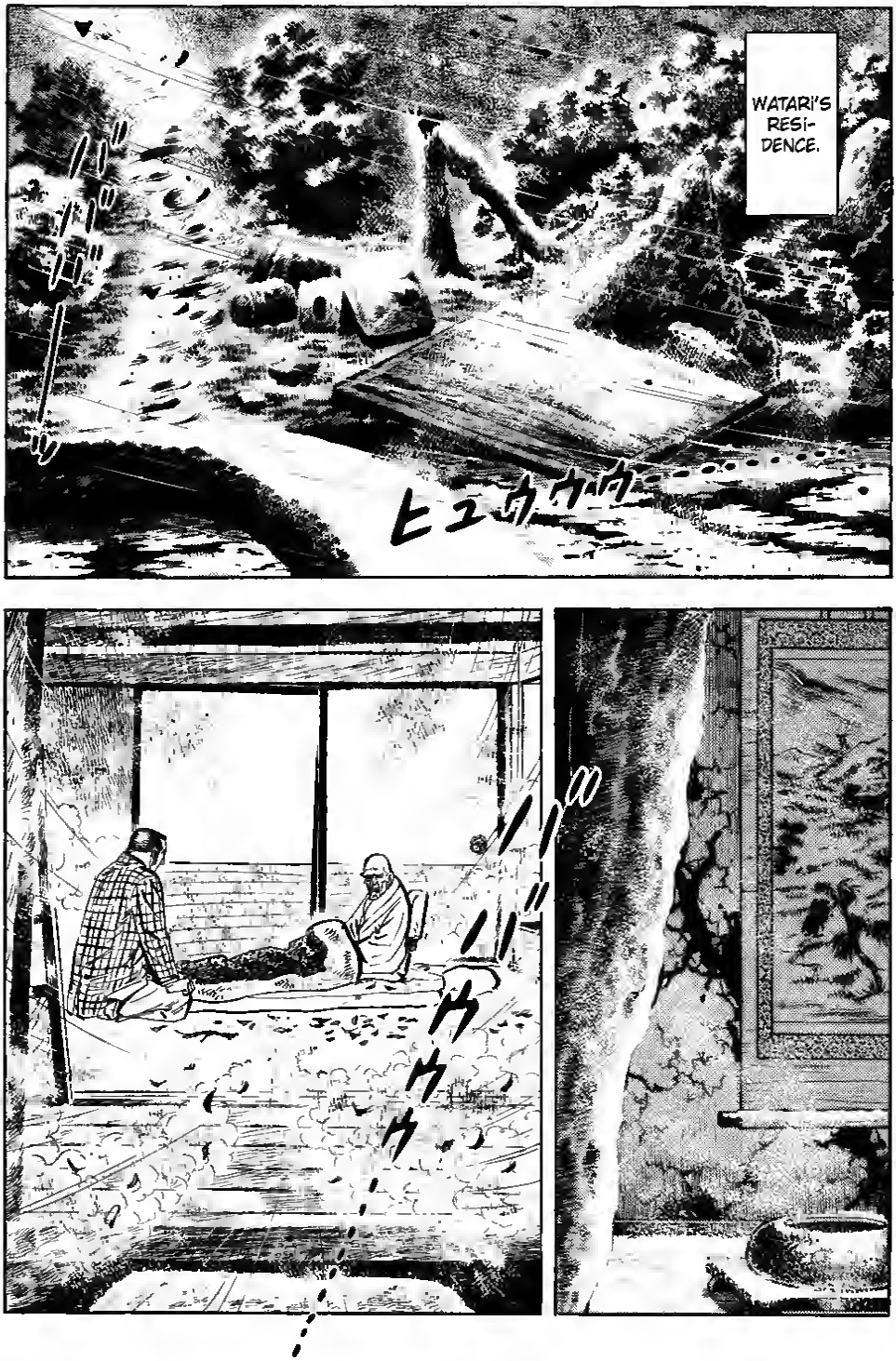

TOKYO, FUCHU WARD.


WATARI'S RESI-DENCE.

THE WIND... IS PICKING UP...
...THAT MASSIVE TYPHOON COMING FROM THE MARIANAS MUST BE GETTING CLOSER.
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...FIRE AND WATER WERE NOT ENOUGH...
...EVEN THE WIND IS TAKING A SHOT AT JAPAN...
...
...
...YOU WERE SAYING... THAT FOOL KUNIEDA... UNLOADED ONE OF THE BOXES AND LET SOME WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON THE SHIP INSTEAD...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
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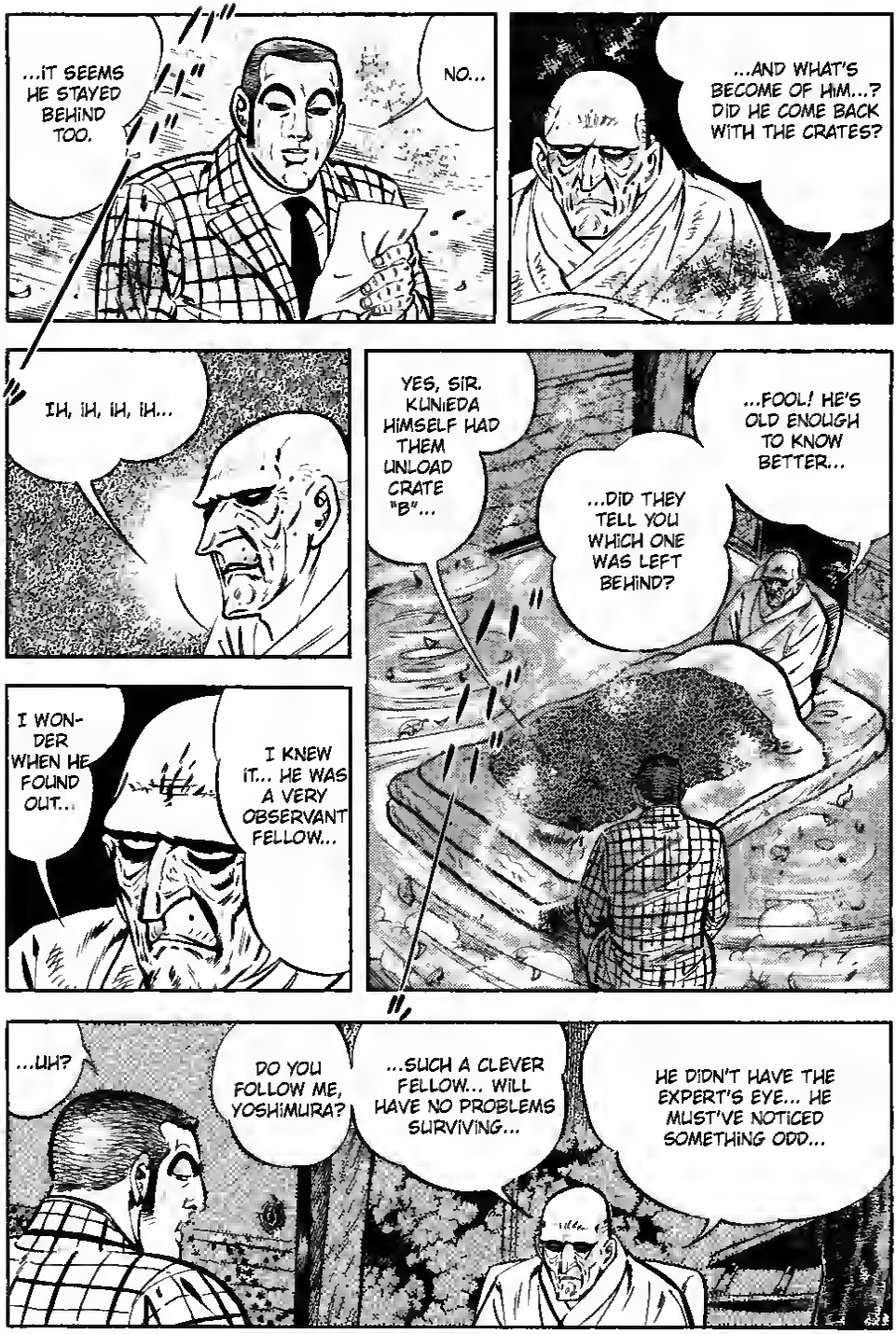
...IT SEEMS HE STAYED BEHIND TOO.
NO...
...AND WHAT'S BECOME OF HIM...? DID HE COME BACK WITH THE CRATES?
IH, IH, IH, IH...
YES, SIR. KUNIEDA HIMSELF HAD THEM UNLOAD CRATE "B"...
...FOOL! HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER...
...DID THEY TELL YOU WHICH ONE WAS LEFT BEHIND?
I WONDER WHEN HE FOUND OUT..
I KNEW IT... HE WAS A VERY OBSERVANT FELLOW...
...UH?
DO YOU FOLLOW ME, YOSHIMURA?
...SUCH A CLEVER FELLOW... WILL HAVE NO PROBLEMS SURVIVING...
HE DIDN'T HAVE THE EXPERT'S EYE... HE MUST'VE NOTICED SOMETHING ODD...

...AN OLD MAN'S LAST ACT OF MISCHIEF... WAS SPOILED BY A TERRIBLY BRIGHT SUBORDINATE... IH, IH, IH...
...WHEN YOU MEET O'CONNOR GIVE HIM MY REGARDS... TELL HIM...
GOOD GRACIOUS... O'CONNOR FROM THE BOSTON ART MUSEUM WILL HIT THE ROOF... OH, WELL...
...NOBODY KNEW ABOUT IT...
THE CONTENTS OF THE "B" CRATE WERE ALL... FAKES... I TOOK CARE OF THAT... A LONG TIME AGO...
...AND THEN WE'LL TRANSFER TO AN AMPHIBIAN IN CHOFU.
A HELICOPTER WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS, THE ASH COULD CHOKE THE ENGINE... THEY'VE SENDING A 4X4...
YES...
BY THE WAY, HAVE THEY COME TO PICK YOU UP?
SEND HER HERE, QUICK!
SHE'S GETTING READY TO GO, I THINK.
WHAT'S HANAE DOING...?
GOOD, GET GOING, THEN...

...
I WILL REMAIN BY YOUR SIDE.
I... I'M NOT GOING, SIR...
...UH? ARE YOU GOING TO RIDE IN A JEEP DRESSED LIKE THAT?
NO!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO DIE WITH AN OLD MAN LIKE ME.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...
NON-SENSE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR SUCH NONSENSE FROM YOU AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...!
I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU...
NO, NO!
...AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, I'VE MADE ARRANGE-MENTS...YOU WON'T LACK ANYTHING...
...IF YOU FIND A GOOD MAN, MARRY HIM...
I HAVE NO PARTICULAR ADVICE TO GIVE YOU... JUST... LIVE! ...HAVE A LONG LIFE...!
YOU WILL GO... AND YOU WILL... START A NEW LIFE ABROAD.
MWAHWAHHH!
WAHHH!
...FROM NOW ON, THE SIMPLE ACT OF LIVING... WON'T BE SO EASY ANYMORE...
...BUT REMEM-BER, HANAE...

KOFF... KOFF...
...I ENTRUST HER TO YOU...
NOTHING FORMAL, A PAIR OF JEANS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
BRING HER A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
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HURRY... OR THE ROAD WILL GET BLOCKED...

HANAE...
WON'T YOU... LET ME SEE...?

...A DAUGHTER OF JAPAN...
...YOU HAVE A GOOD BODY... YOU'LL HAVE BIG, STRONG CHILDREN...
...HAVE CHILDREN, HANAE...
...FIND A GOOD MAN... HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE JAPANESE... HAVE MANY CHILDREN WITH HIM...
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TAKE HER WITH YOU.

...SIR...
TAKE CARE OF HANAE, YOSHIMURA...
...HURRY UP AND LEAVE....
...ENOUGH OF THAT...
...GOODBYE, SIR...
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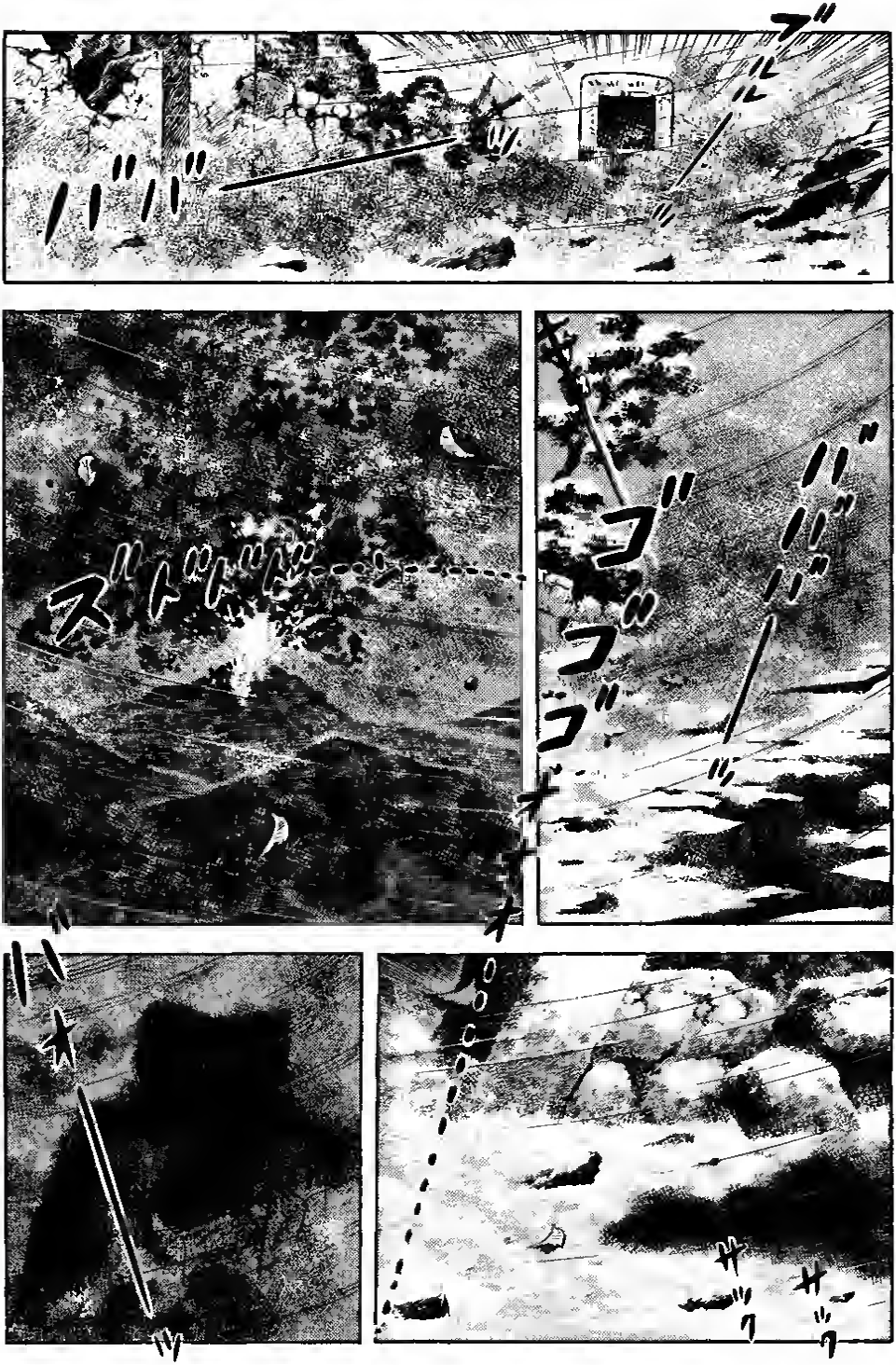
WAHHH... WAHHH... WAHH...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...IS THAT YOU... PROFESSOR TADORO?
KOFF.. KOFF..

ヒュウウ
...I HAD A FEELING YOU WOULDN'T...
SO... YOU DIDN'T LEAVE IN THE END...
...THE TYPHOON'S GETTING CLOSER...
...TOO LATE FOR THAT, NOW...
HAD I HAD A JEEP... I WOULD'VE DRIVEN INTO THE MOUNTAINS...

...HOW OLD ARE YOU... PROFESSOR TADORO?
I'M... 65...
...ABOUT TWO MORE MONTHS...
...HOW MUCH LONGER, I WONDER...?
...WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
...BUT IN TEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS... THERE WON'T BE ANYBODY LEFT ALIVE, I THINK...
...I FEEL SAD... MAYBE THAT'S WHY...
...I DON'T KNOW... I FEEL VERY SAD...
...YOU'RE STILL YOUNG... WHY DO YOU WANT TO DIE...?
....IF YOU HAD KEPT WORKING FOR THE UNIVERSITY... YOU'D BE RETIRING NOW...
AT FIRST... I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL ANYBODY...
...YOU'RE SAD... THAT'S IT...?
...I MAY BE OLD BUT... I'M STILL VERY CHILDISH...

...WHEN I SAW "IT" FOR THE FIRST TIME... THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAD BEEN KEEPING ME AT ARM'S LENGTH FOR YEARS... BESIDES, I HAD NO EVIDENCE, ONLY MY INTUITION...
...AND WHEN MY INTUITION SUGGESTED WHAT MAY BE GOING ON... I WAS TERRIFIED, OF COURSE...
...YOU ASKED ME WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR A SCIENTIST AND I ANSWERED... INTUITION.
...REMEMBER? WHEN WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THAT HOTEL...
I DIDN'T WANT TO SHARE WHAT I KNEW WITH ANYBODY...
...I WAS CONVINCED NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME...
BUT I COULDN'T PROVE ANYTHING AT THE TIME... EVEN IF I HAD TOLD MY COLLEAGUES.....

...REVEALED THE REAL NATURE OF THE CHANGE... ALL PREPARATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN DELAYED AT LEAST ONE YEAR... POSSIBLY TWO...
...IF I HAD NOT...
YES, BUT IT WOULD'VE TAKEN A LONG TIME...
...SOMEBODY WOULD'VE NOTICED... EVENTUALLY...
...THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WOULD HAVE PROBABLY DOUBLED... MAYBE TRIPLED...
...IF YOU HADN'T TALKED...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ACADEMIC WORLD HELD ME IN SUCH CONTEMPT... NOBODY WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED MY INTUITION AS PROOF...
YOU SEE, IN SCIENCE... YOU CANNOT ACCEPT SOMETHING ONLY ON THE BASIS OF YOUR INTUITION.... AT SOME POINT YOU NEED EVIDENCE...
ヒュウウウ!
...AND THAT'S WHY YOU ENDURED SO MUCH... IN THE END YOU EVEN PLAYED THE DRUNKEN, MAD SCIENTIST, DESTROYING WHAT WAS LEFT OF YOUR REPUTATION... YOU LEFT NOTHING UNTRIED...
...IF ALL THOSE TIME-CONSUMING PREPARATIONS... ...USING SMALL, UNKNOWN COMPANIES AS A FRONT... HAD BEEN DELAYED ONE OR TWO YEARS... WE COULDN'T HAVE SAVED SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE...

...I WANTED MANY, MANY MORE PEOPLE...
...TO DELAY THE PLAN-NING...
...TO DIE... TOGETHER WITH THIS ISLAND.
...I WANTED TO KEEP EVERY-THING SECRET ...
...ALL THE INFORMATION AND DATA I SO FRANTICALLY COLLECTED TO CONFIRM MY HUNCH...
...THE TRUTH IS THAT... WHAT I SENSED... WHAT I SAW...
...THAT'S RIGHT BUT... THE TRUTH IS...
...BUT REALLY, WHAT I WANTED TO DO AT THE TIME WAS TO... YELL TO EVERY JAPANESE... "OUR JAPAN, THE ISLAND WE LOVE... WILL BE DESTROYED... ANNIHILATED...! LET US ALL DIE TOGETHER, TOGETHER WITH THIS ISLAND WE LOVE...!"
...SOUNDS CRAZY, RIGHT?
...KOFF... KOFF...
EVEN NOW, SOMETIMES I THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER HAD I DONE THAT...
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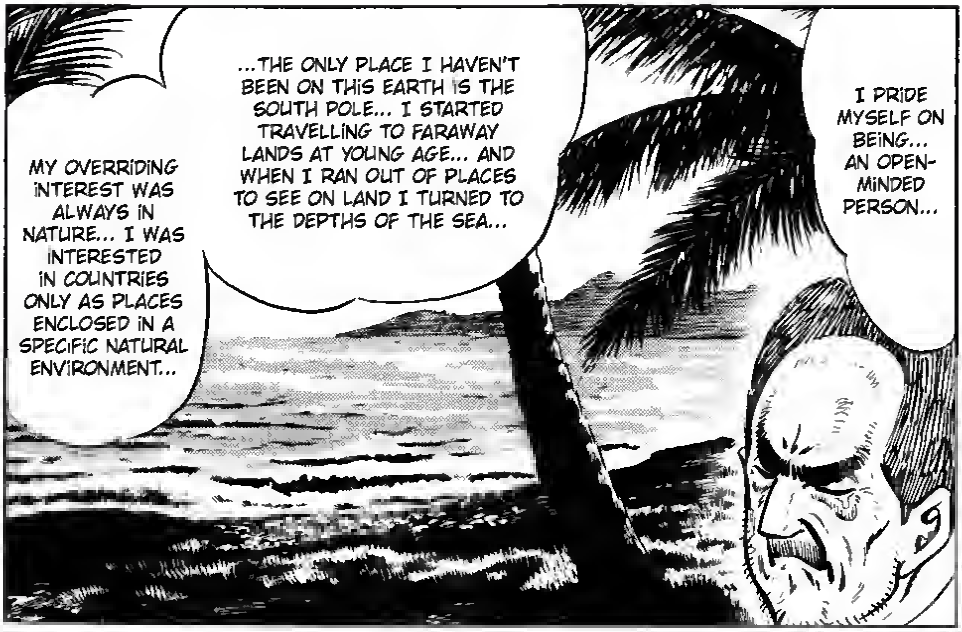
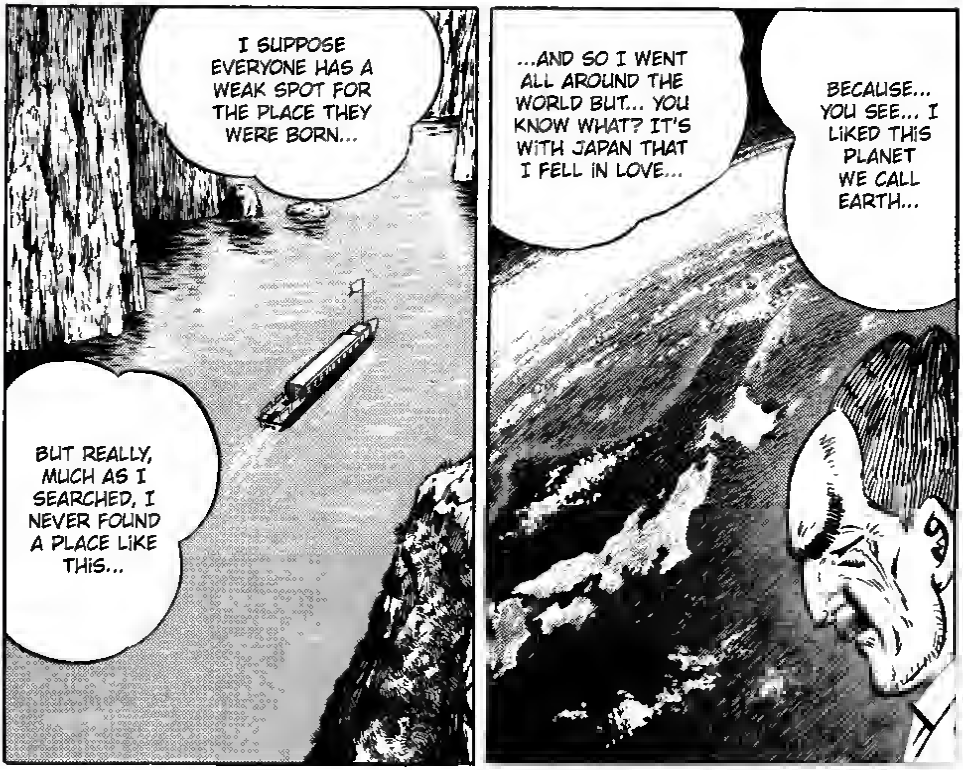
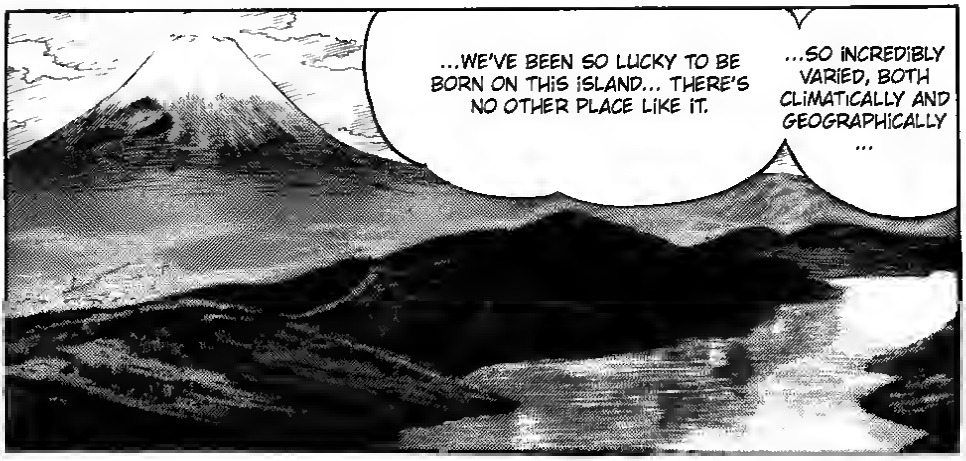
AND WHY IS THAT?
...BECAUSE... WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE SUFFERING AWAITING THOSE WHO'VE ESCAPED ABROAD...
...YOU... YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH THIS COUNTRY OF OURS...
...I SEE... NOW I UNDERSTAND...
...YOU... ARE A WIDOWER, AREN'T YOU?
...IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN AN INFATUATION... IT WAS... GENUINE LOVE...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT...

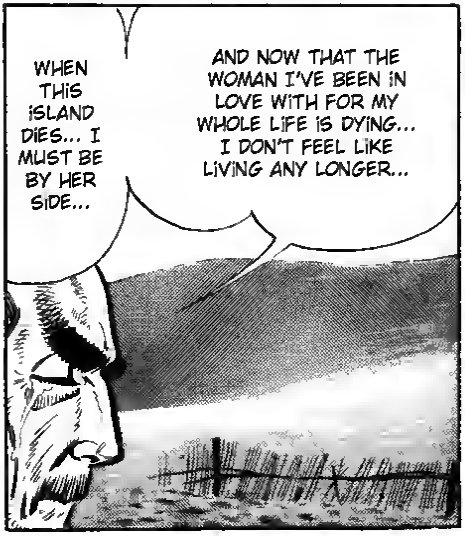
...I DECIDED I WOULD DIE TOGETHER WITH THIS ISLAND...
...THE INSTANT I SAW IT...
...THAT'S RIGHT...
...YES ...
...I CAN JUST IMAGINE YOUR SORROW...
...AND WHEN YOU SAW THE SIGNS OF THIS INCURABLE "CANCER" ...ON THE BODY OF THE WOMAN YOU LOVED SO MUCH...
ユウウウ
...A LOVE SUICIDE...
...I REALLY WANTED TO ASK EVERYBODY TO DIE WITH ME... I THOUGHT BEING JAPANESE THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND...
THEN I GOT FEVERISH...
...WE JAPANESE... ARE TRULY A STRANGE RACE...
ズドドド
BUT IN THE END I DECIDED THERE WAS NO NEED TO FORCE SO MAY PEOPLE INTO A SUICIDE PACT WITH ME AND THE WOMAN I LOVED...

I THOUGHT... THEY'D PROBABLY UNDERSTAND...
...HAD YOU ASKED OTHER PEOPLE TO... I THINK A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM WOULD'VE JOINED YOU...
I DON'T THINK... WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO WAS SO STRANGE...
WE JAPANESE... WE'RE ARE NOT HUMAN FIRST AND THEN JAPANESE... WE ARE JAPANESE THROUGH AND THROUGH... THESE FOUR ISLANDS... THE NATURE, THESE MOUNTAINS, THE RIVERS... THE FORESTS, THE ANIMALS... THE CITIES, THE VILLAGES... THE MONUMENTS BUILT BY OUR ANCESTORS... WE ARE ONE WITH ALL OF THIS. THE JAPANESE ARE ONE WITH MT. FUJI, WITH THE JAPANESE ALPS... WITH THE TONE RIVER...
IT'S NOT AS IF OUR PEOPLE HAVE SIMPLY ONLY MOVED TO THIS ISLAND FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE... EVEN IF WE DID COME AFTERWARDS... WE'VE BECOME ONE WITH IT...
...WE COULDN'T CALL OURSELVES JAPANESE ANYMORE.
IF THIS DELICATE ECOSYSTEM... THESE ISLANDS... WERE TO BE DESTROYED AND DISAPPEAR...

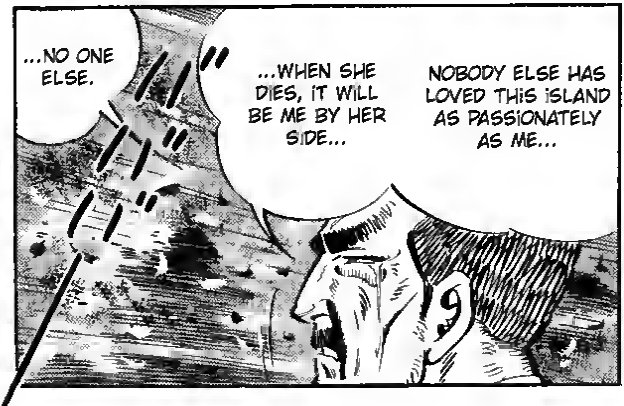

I PRIDE MYSELF ON BEING... AN OPEN-MINDED PERSON...
...THE ONLY PLACE I HAVEN'T BEEN ON THIS EARTH IS THE SOUTH POLE... I STARTED TRAVELLING TO FARAWAY LANDS AT YOUNG AGE... AND WHEN I RAN OUT OF PLACES TO SEE ON LAND I TURNED TO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA...
MY OVERRIDING INTEREST WAS ALWAYS IN NATURE... I WAS INTERESTED IN COUNTRIES ONLY AS PLACES ENCLOSED IN A SPECIFIC NATURAL ENVIRONMENT...


BECAUSE... YOU SEE... I LIKED THIS PLANET WE CALL EARTH...
...AND SO I WENT ALL AROUND THE WORLD BUT... YOU KNOW WHAT? IT'S WITH JAPAN THAT I FELL IN LOVE...
I SUPPOSE EVERYONE HAS A WEAK SPOT FOR THE PLACE THEY WERE BORN...
BUT REALLY, MUCH AS I SEARCHED, I NEVER FOUND A PLACE LIKE THIS...


...WE'VE BEEN SO LUCKY TO BE BORN ON THIS ISLAND... THERE'S NO OTHER PLACE LIKE IT.
...SO INCREDIBLY VARIED, BOTH CLIMATICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY ...


WHEN THIS ISLAND DIES... I MUST BE BY HER SIDE...
AND NOW THAT THE WOMAN I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH FOR MY WHOLE LIFE IS DYING... I DON'T FEEL LIKE LIVING ANY LONGER...

TO ME, LOVING JAPAN, THIS ISLAND OF OURS, WAS THE SAME AS BEING IN LOVE WITH THE MOST UNIQUELY JAPANESE OF ALL JAPANESE WOMEN...


...NO ONE ELSE.
...WHEN SHE DIES, IT WILL BE ME BY HER SIDE...
NOBODY ELSE HAS LOVED THIS ISLAND AS PASSIONATELY AS ME...

WHO ELSE SHOULD BE THERE FOR HER?
...BY HER SIDE... TILL THE VERY LAST MOMENT...

SOB... SOB... SOB...
KOFF... KOFF... KOFF...
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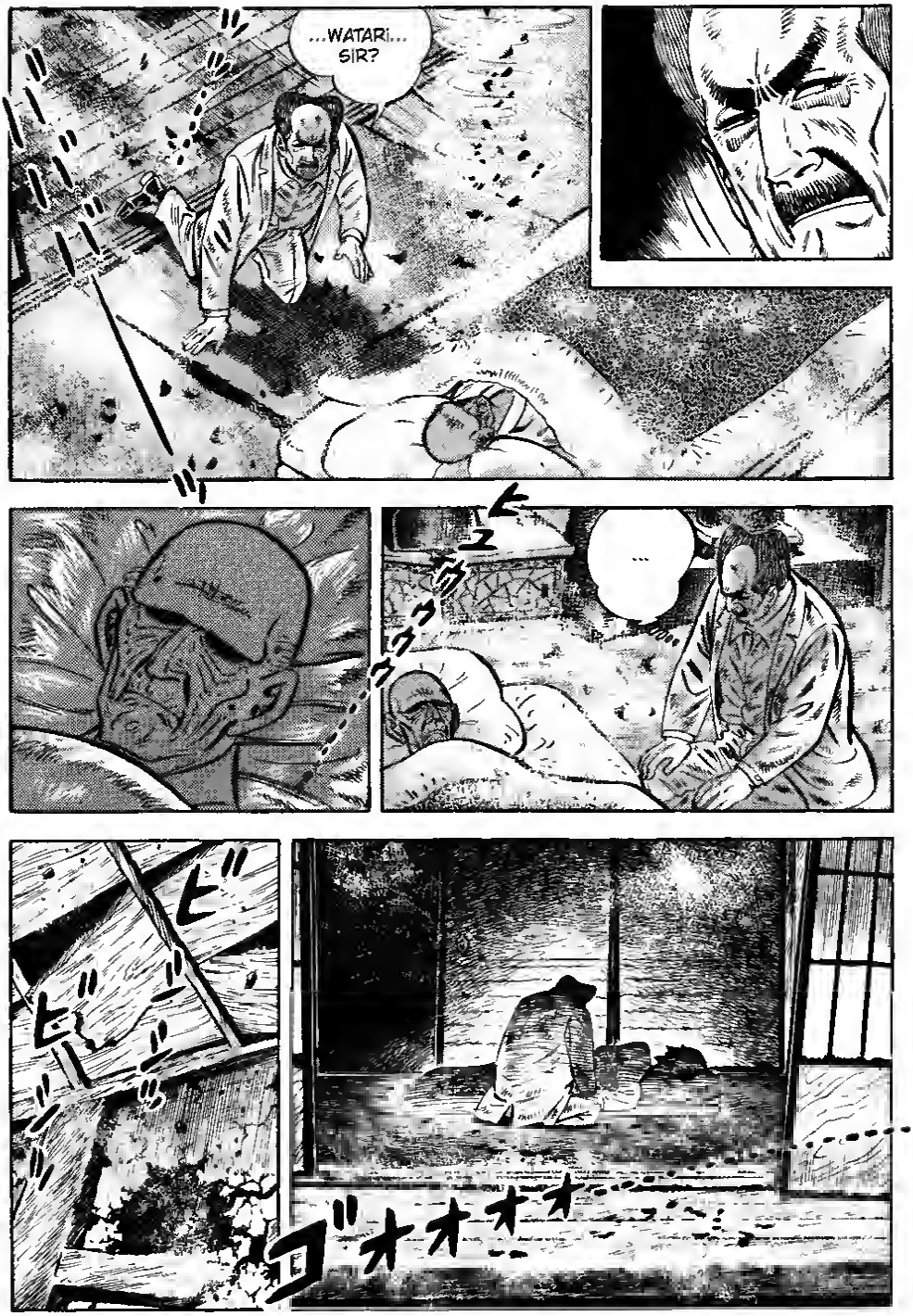
THE JAPANESE... ARE A YOUNG PEOPLE...
...AND EVERY TIME THEY LEFT AND MET WITH HARDSHIPS ABROAD, THEY WOULD ALWAYS COME BACK TO THEM...
...LIVING IN THE WARM, LOVING EMBRACE OF THESE FOUR ISLANDS... FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS...
YOU CALLED YOURSELF CHILDISH... THE JAPANESE... HAVE HAD A VERY HAPPY CHILDHOOD... UP TO NOW...
...JUST LIKE CHILDREN WHO RUN BACK INTO THE ARMS OF THEIR MOTHER AFTER LOSING A FIGHT...

...BUT EVENTUALLY... EVEN MOTHERS DIE...
...AND THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU... WHO LOVE THESE ISLANDS LIKE A MOTHER...
...NOT MANY RACES ON THIS EARTH HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE HAD SUCH A GENEROUS HOMELAND... COUNTLESS RACES HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED THROUGH THE AGES TO WANDER THE EARTH IN EXILE...
A LOT OF SUFFERING AWAITS THE JAPANESE PEOPLE... AS LONG AS THESE FOUR ISLANDS EXISTED... THEY HAD A HOME TO COME BACK TO... A HOMETOWN... A MOTHER...
...IN A WAY YOU COULD SAY THAT... THE JAPANESE RACE IS BEING FORCED INTO ADULTHOOD...
...BUT THE MANY JAPANESE WHO ESCAPED WITH THEIR LIVES... THEY WILL FACE MANY TESTS... THEY MUST NAVIGATE THE COLD WATERS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD WITH NO ISLAND TO COME BACK TO...
...YOU HAD NO CHOICE... YOU LOVED YOUR MOTHER...YOU'LL DIE HERE

...OR IT WILL MARCH INTO THE FUTURE TO BECOME A "MATURE RACE"...
...THEY WILL BE SWALLOWED BY THE WORLD... AND EITHER THE JAPANESE RACE WILL COME TO AN END...
FROM NOW ON, THE JAPANESE WILL TAKE THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD BESIDE THE SUFFERING, ERRANT MULTITUDES...
THESE ARE THE CHOICES FACING THEM...
OR THEY MAY CHOOSE TO CLING TO THEIR PAST GLORY, TO GIVE IN TO NOSTALGIA, BEQUEATHING TO THE NEXT GENERATION ONLY BITTERNESS, SORROW AND CONTEMPT FOR THE WORLD... AND FADE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE...
THEIR BLOOD, THEIR WORDS AND TRADITIONS WILL REMAIN ON THIS EARTH... AND THEY MAY EVEN BUILD A SMALL "COUNTRY" SOMEWHERE...
...NOR WILL THEY EVER REALIZE, BENT AS THEY ARE TOWARDS THE FUTURE...
NOT ONE OF THEM KNOWS...
...BUT SPARE A BLESSING FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ESCAPED FROM THE HOUSE IN FLAMES...
SEE... TADORO... YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO MOURN THE WOMAN YOU LOVED...

I DO... I UNDERSTAND...
BUT I... KNOW IT... I KNOW IT...
...THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SAVED THEM.
...YOU SEE NOW...?
YOU KNOW... YOU'RE ONE OF THE MOST HARD-HEADED PEOPLE I'VE EVER MET...
WELL, WELL... I'M HAPPY THAT YOU DO...
NOW... LISTENING TO YOU... I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND THE JAPANESE MIND...
... IT GAVE ME GREAT SORROW...
...THINKING WHAT YOU DID...
...IN TRUTH... I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DIE...
MY FATHER WAS... A CHINESE MONK...
I... AM NOT A PURE-BLOODED JAPANESE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SIR...?
...THERE WERE ALWAYS ASPECTS OF THEIR MENTALITY I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...
THE JAPANESE PEOPLE...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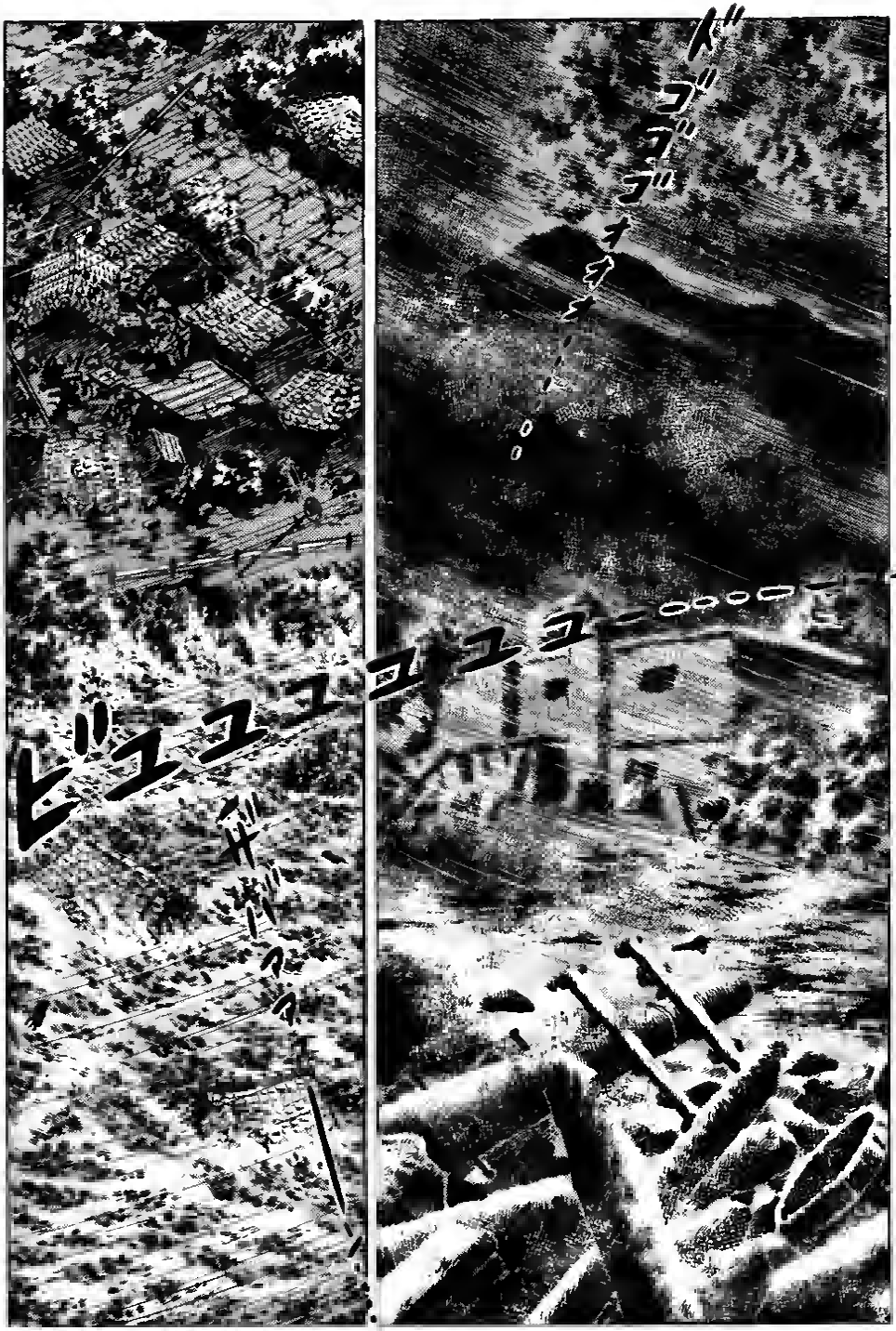
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THE FINAL ACT TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST. SHIKOKU AND KYUSHU HAD ALREADY DRIFTED 100 KM TO THE SOUTH AND WERE COMPLETELY UNDER THE SEA... HONSHU HAD BEEN SMASHED TO PIECES AND KEPT ON SINKING. AND UNDER THE ASSAULT OF THE ELEMENTS, RESCUERS AND EVACUEES ALIKE SUFFERED AN EVER GROWING NUMBER OF CASUALTIES...

SELF-DEFENSE FORCES'S VESSEL HARUNA, D-1 HEAD-QUAR-TERS.
I'VE ALSO DECLARED THE END OF ALL PLAN D-RELATED ACTIVITIES...
TODAY, AT TEN A.M. I GAVE ORDER TO THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES TO STOP ALL RESCUE OPERATIONS.
READ IT OUT LOUD TO ME.
...THE PRIME MIN-ISTER?
A TELEGRAM FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, NAKATA.
WHAT...? END OF OPERA-TIONS...?
...LET ME EXTEND TO YOU MY SINCERE THANKS FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS.

...END OF OPERATIONS?
BUT THEN... JAPAN...
...THIRTY MINUTES AGO THE CHUBU MASSIF EXPLODED FOR THE LAST TIME...
THEY'VE BEEN SHOWING IMAGES FROM THE SURVEY PLANES ON TV...
SO... HAS JAPAN SUNK?
カチャ
作戦終了
END OF OPERATIONS

"THEY HAVEN'T SUNK THE TEIEN YET...*"
...BUT WHATEVER'S LEFT WILL SOON BE GONE...
...IT'S STILL THERE... STILL SINKING...
WE DON'T KNOW... WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE FIGURES FOR THE LAST WEEK OF JULY.
WHAT'S THE FINAL TOLL?
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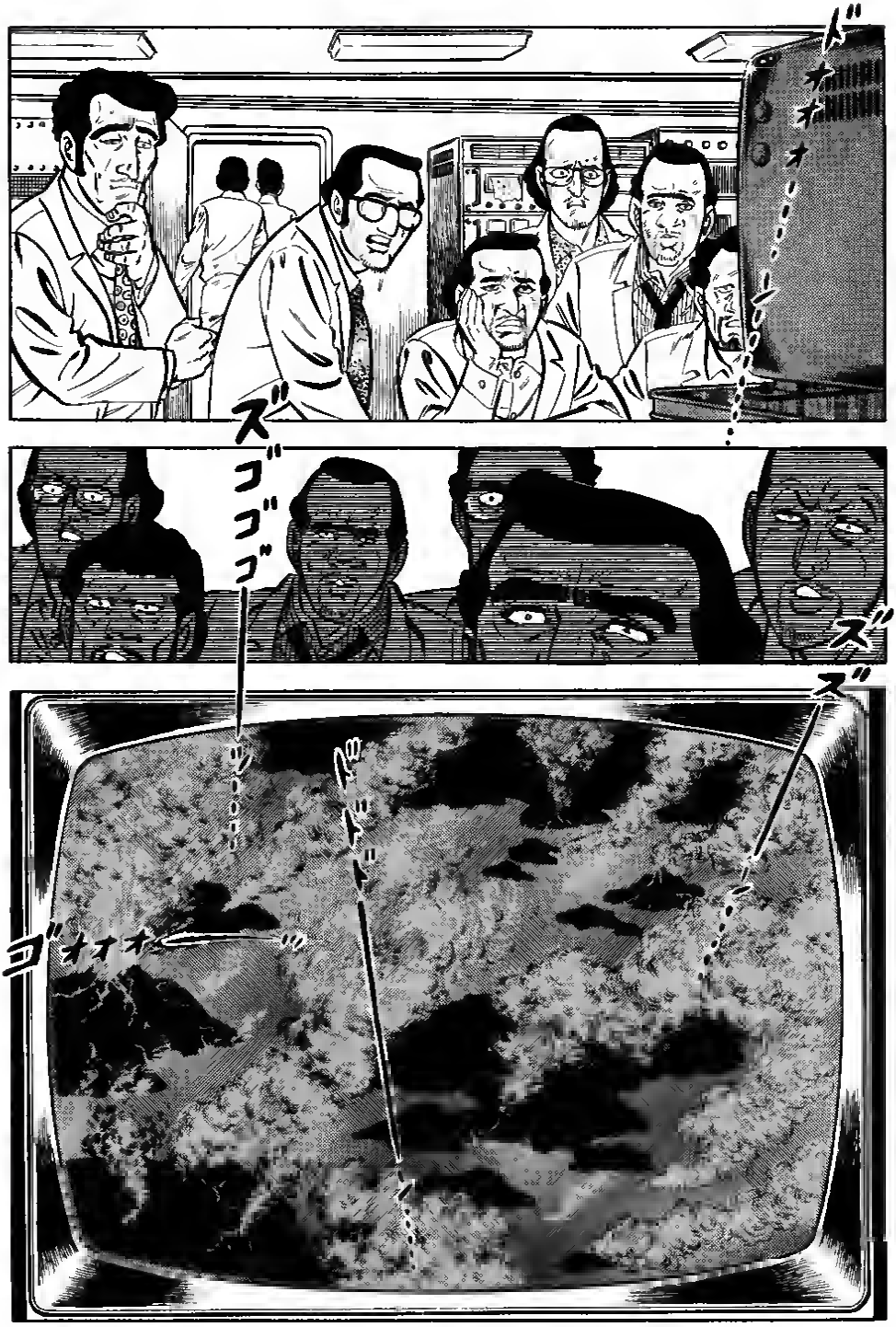
HELL, NO... NO MORE SPEECHES FOR ME.
DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
THE UNSECRETARY GENERAL IS GOING TO MAKE A FINAL APPEAL TO THE WORLD AND THE PRIME MINISTER IS ABOUT TO GIVE A SPEECH ON TV...
END OF OPERATIONS... COMING UP ON DECK?
IT'S OVER... IT'S ALL OVER...
OK.

*TEIEN: ONE OF CHINA'S MOST FAMOUS BATTLESHIPS AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR. IT WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY THE JAPANESE IN A SEA BATTLE IN THE YELLOW SEA AND SANK IN WEIHAIWEI.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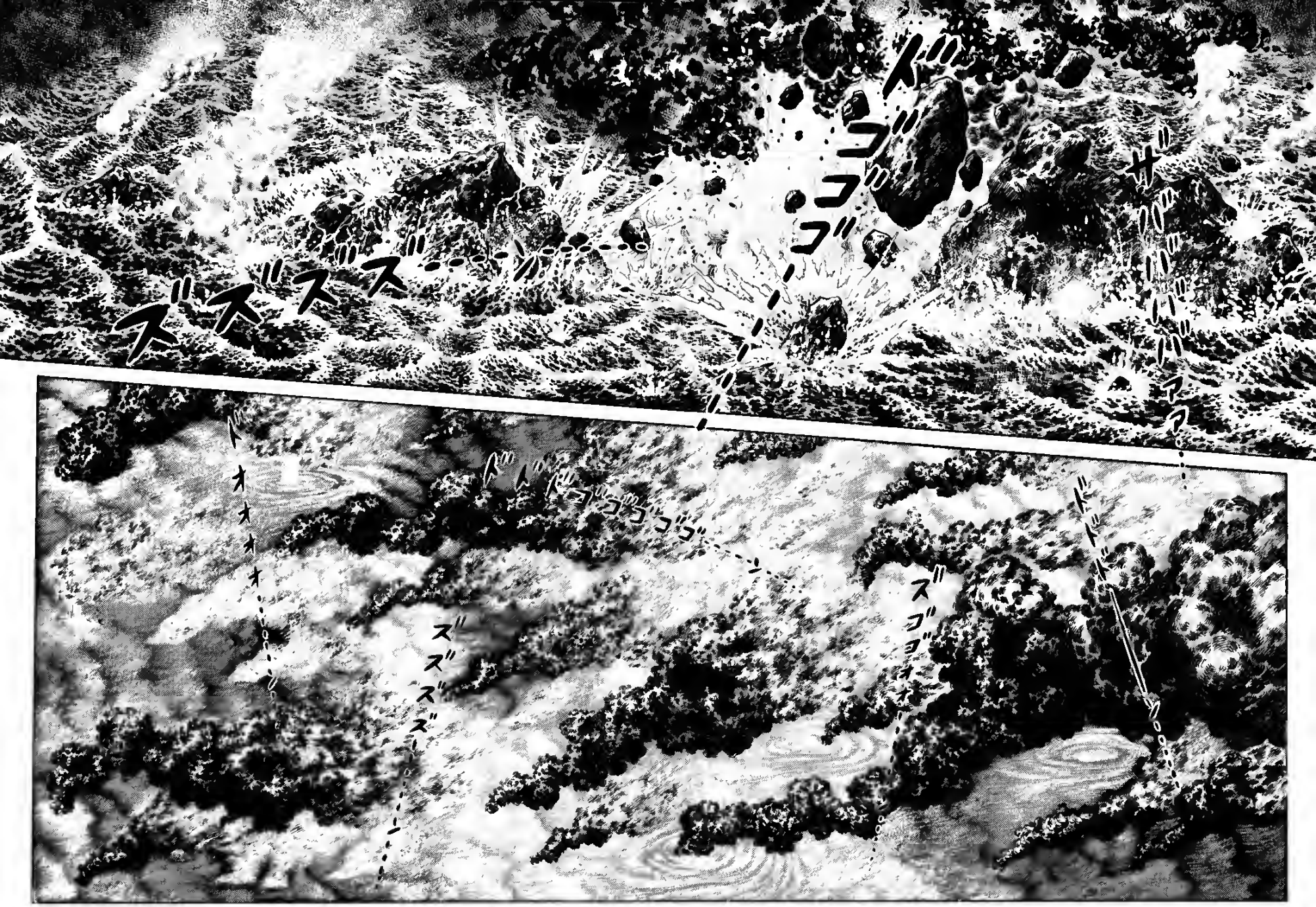
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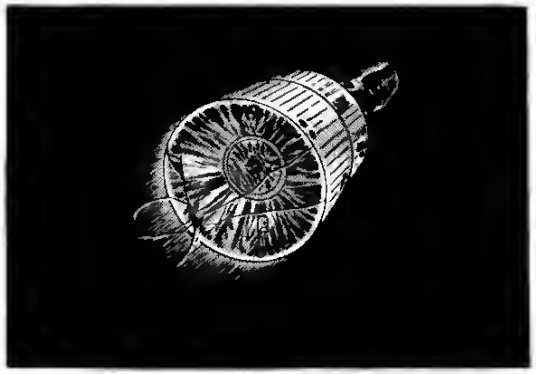
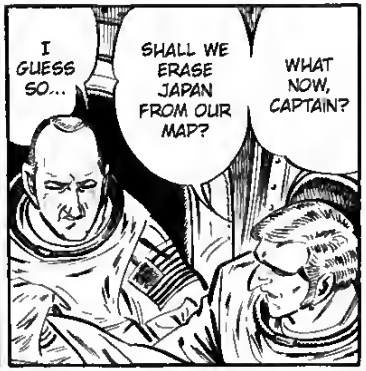
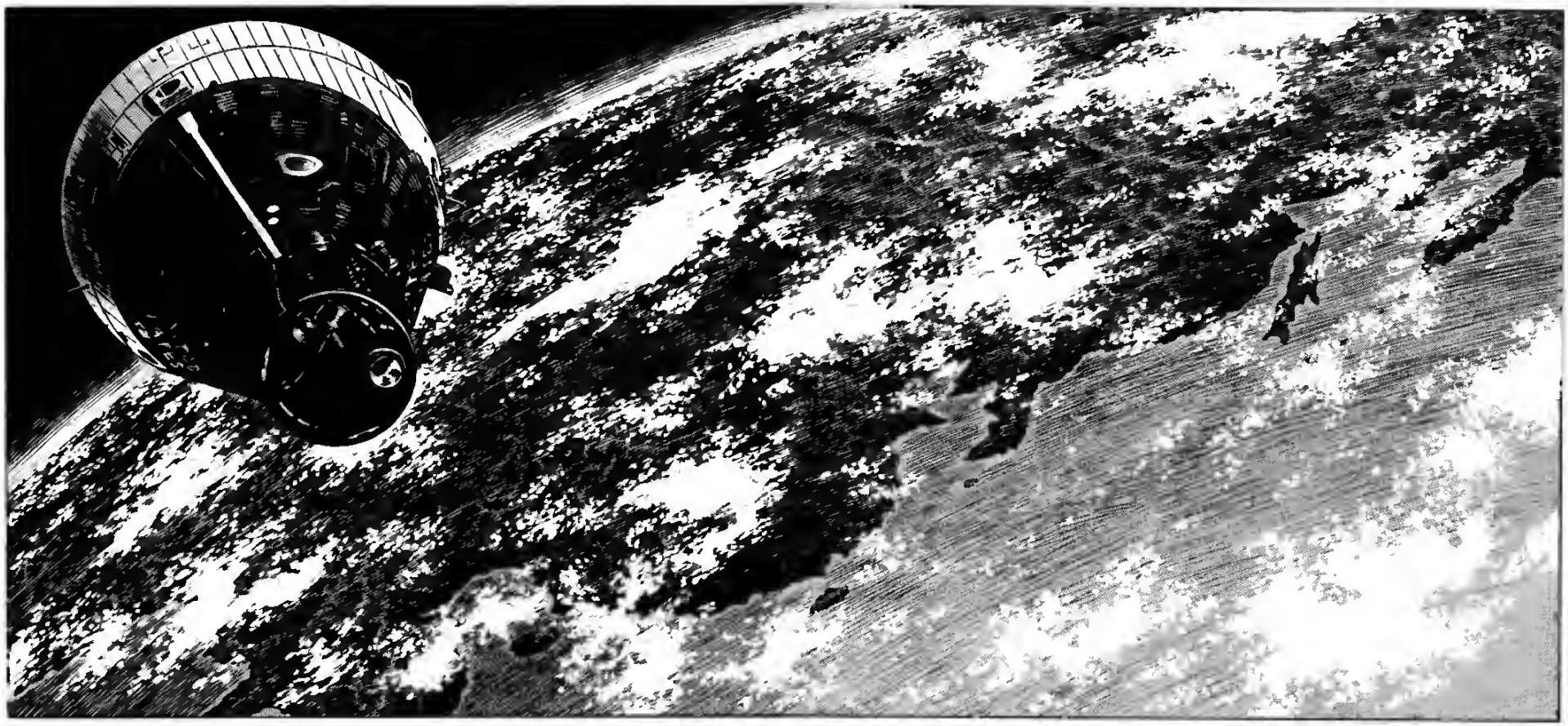
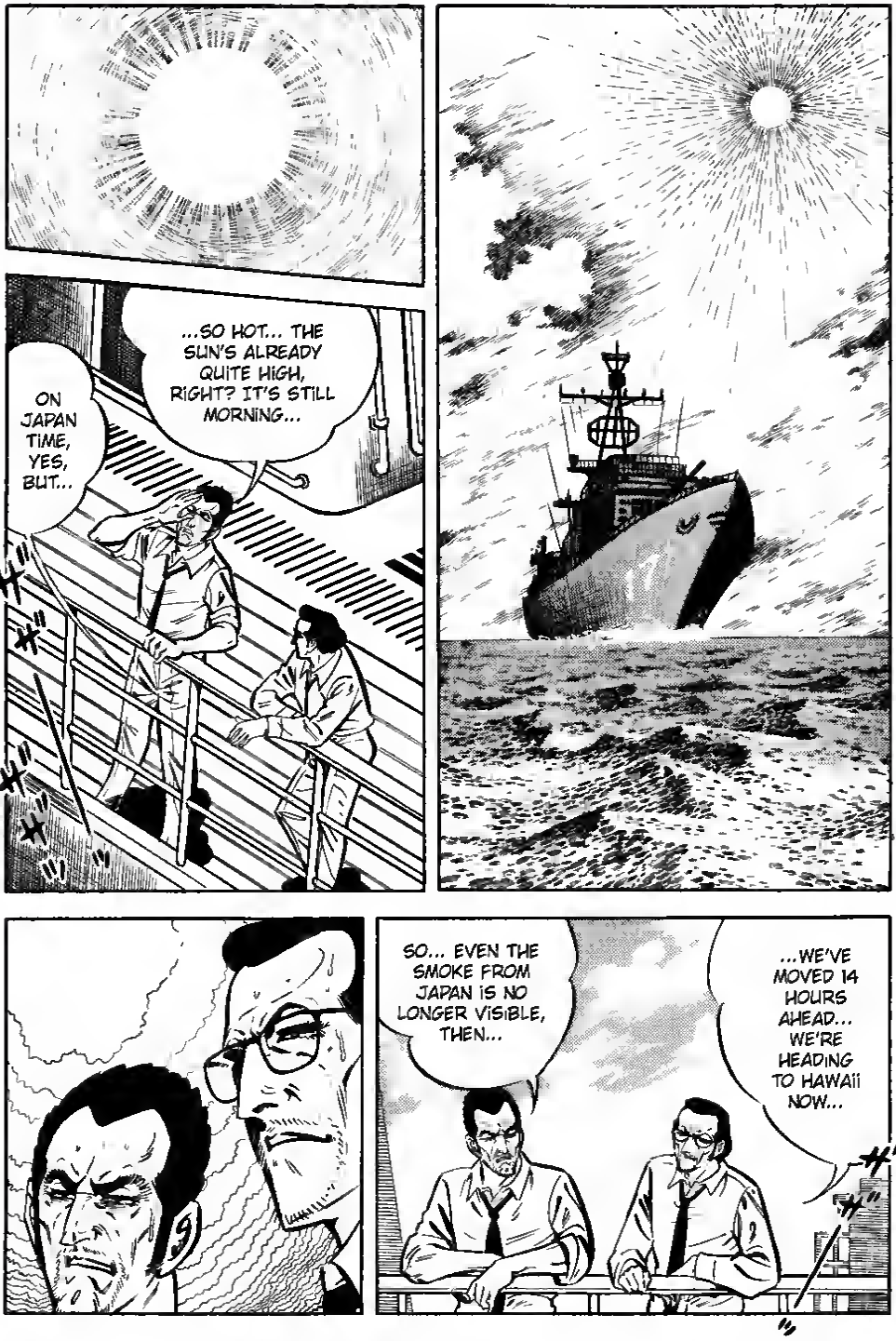



I GUESS SO...
SHALL WE ERASE JAPAN FROM OUR MAP?
WHAT NOW, CAPTAIN?

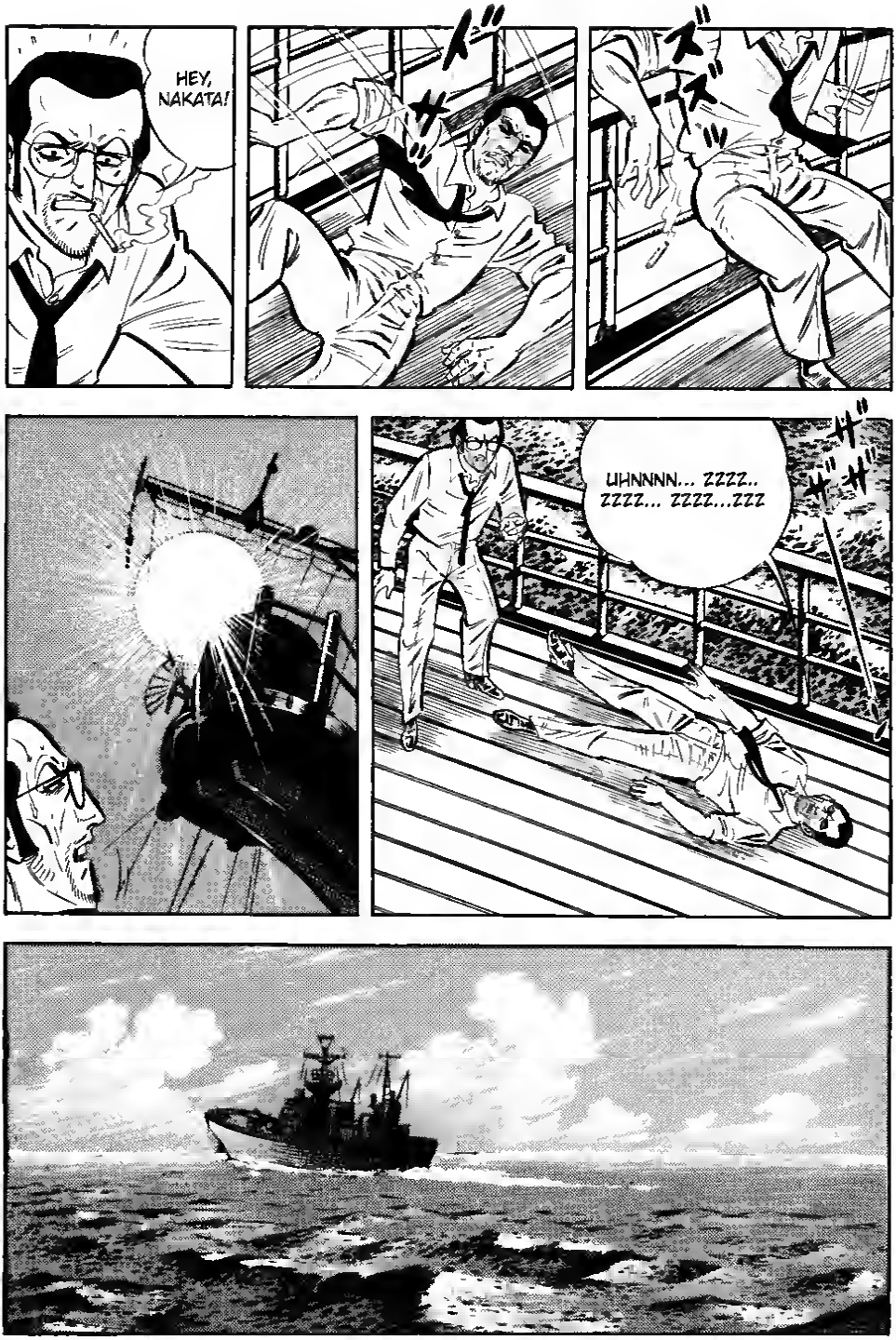
THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO HAS VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
OH!
...MY GOD!

LOOK! A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS...




...SO HOT... THE SUN'S ALREADY QUITE HIGH, RIGHT? IT'S STILL MORNING...
ON JAPAN TIME, YES, BUT...
SO... EVEN THE SMOKE FROM JAPAN IS NO LONGER VISIBLE, THEN...
...WE'VE MOVED 14 HOURS AHEAD... WE'RE HEADING TO HAWAII NOW...

...AND I DON'T CARE ANYMORE...
I DON'T KNOW...
...ARE THOSE CLOUDS... OR IS IT THE SMOKE OVER THE ARCHIPELAGO?
JAPAN'S GONE. BYE, BYE...
SO... THIS IS REALLY THE END, I GUESS...
SHOULDN'T YOU GET SOME REST? YOU'RE NOT MAKING MUCH SENSE...
...THEY HAVEN'T SUNK THE TEIEN YET...
I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING HE'S STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I DREAMT ABOUT ONODERA LAST NIGHT...
SPEAKING OF OUR JOB...
...OUR JOB TOO.
YES, IT'S ALL OVER...


HEY, NAKATA!
UHNNNN... ZZZZ.. ZZZZ... ZZZZ...ZZZ

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Украина
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MY SISTER... DID SHE REALLY DIE... WITH JAPAN?

THAT'S RIGHT! THE LETTER FROM REIKO...!
小野寺俊夫様
ONODERA
SHE... SHE MAY BE STILL ALIVE... SOMEWHERE...
小野寺俊夫様
TO: MR.ONODERA
MY SISTER... SHE REALLY LIKED YOU, ONODERA... FROM WAY BACK... I'M SURE SHE WROTE... SHE WOULD MARRY YOU...
STILL... I KNOW WHAT SHE WROTE IN THAT LETTER...
...NO GOOD... IT'S ILLEGIBLE...
ゴ
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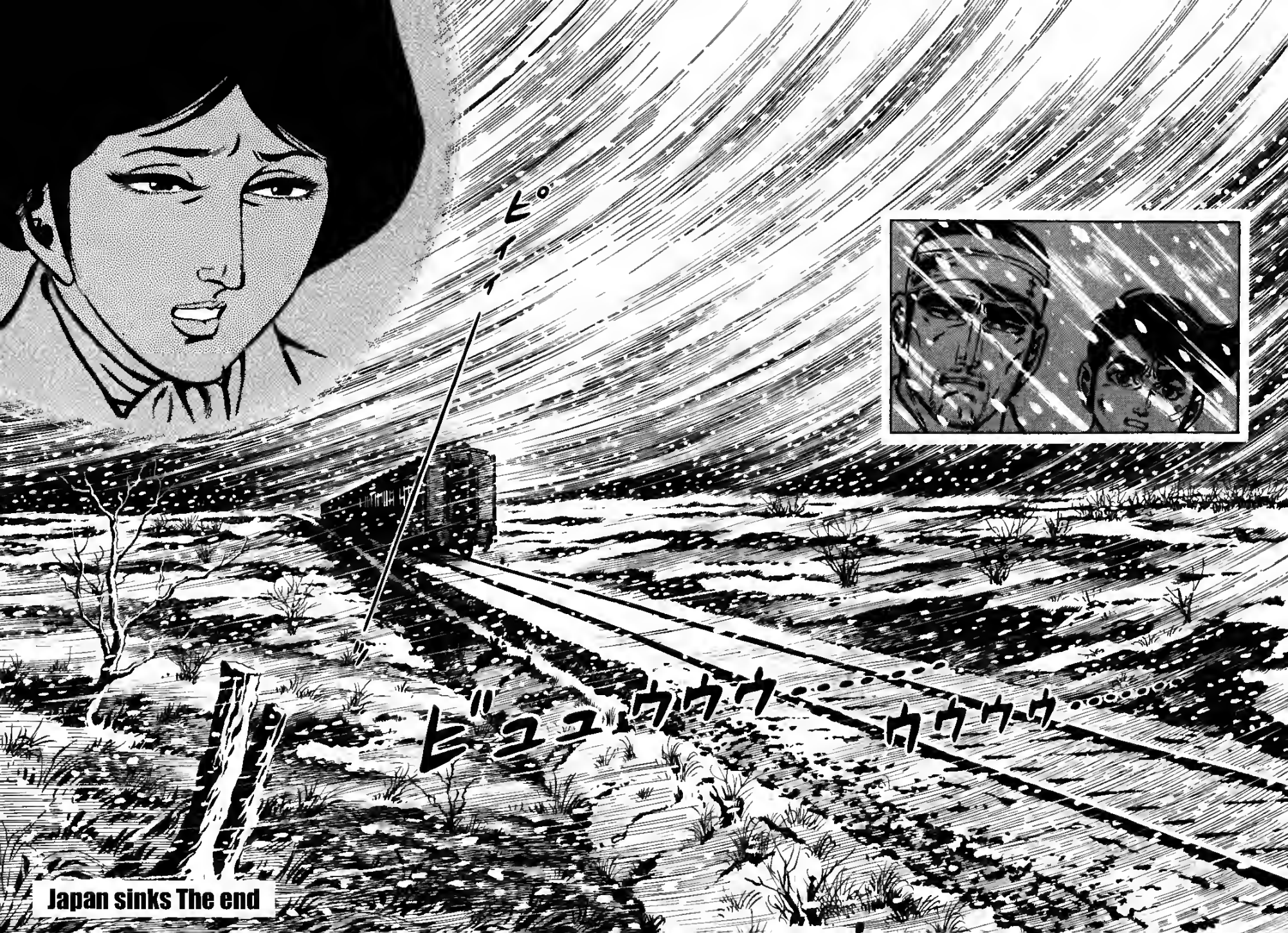
...

NO, NOT YET...
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM... NAKATA AND YUKINAGA...?
...HOT...
...IT'S SO HOT...
JAPAN...? HAS IT SUNK?
IS THAT YOU, ONO-DERA ...?
BUT IT WILL... EVENTU-ALLY...
I DON'T KNOW...
DOES HE STILL HAVE A FEVER?
HOW IS KATAOKA...?
...
... TAHITI'S... A GOOD PLACE... IT'S GOING TO BE HOT THERE...
...ONCE WE GET TO TAHITI... WE'LL BE ALL TOGETHER AGAIN...
YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP, KATAOKA...
...IT'S ALREADY SUNK... I'M SURE...

...IT'S STILL SHAKING...
...IS IT STILL FAR TO HAWAII?
HAWAii... AND THEN... TAHITI...
...THAT'S WHY IT'S SHAKING...
...WE MUST HAVE RUN INTO THE KUROSHIO CURRENT... SOUTH OF NOZAKI IS...
CAN YOU STILL SEE... JAPAN?
...WE'RE STILL WITHIN SIGHT, RIGHT?
CAN'T YOU LOOK OUT OF THE WINDOW ...?
WELL...
JAPAN... HAS JAPAN SUNK ALREADY...?
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE, KATAOKA...
HAS IT SUNK, THEN? CAN YOU SEE THE SMOKE...?
NO...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ヒュュウウウ……ウウウウ……
Japan sinks The end

Japan sinks (4)
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